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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Patients' rights: Leading Republicans said Tuesday that Congress is unlikely to pass patient rights legislation this year, despite lawmakers' pledges to revive it following a Supreme Court ruling limiting lawsuits against HMOs.

Some Democrats said the issue could be potent in the presidential campaign. However, the chances that the Republican-led House will take up a national patients' protection bill this year are "zero," said Rep. John Boehner, R-Ohio, chairman of the House Education and the Workforce Committee.

Capitol plane scare: Kentucky Gov. Ernie Fletcher's plane put itself in danger of being shot down when it touched off a security scare before Ronald Reagan ceremonies at the U.S. Capitol, an aide said Tuesday.

Fighter jets that were scrambled first would have buzzed the governor's turboprop to force it to land, Chief of Staff Daniel Groves said at a news conference. Failing that, the plane could have been shot down.

Fletcher's plane, carrying the governor to Ronald Reagan's funeral, flew into restricted air space around the Capitol on June 9.

Kevorkian case: A federal appeals court has rejected an appeal for a new trial for assisted suicide advocate Jack Kevorkian, who has been behind bars since 1999.

Kevorkian plans to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court because he did not get a fair trial, said his attorney, Mayer Morganroth.

Tractor on National Mall: A tobacco farmer dubbed "Tractor Man" was sentenced Wednesday to six years in prison in connection with a March 2003 incident that brought traffic in the nation's capital to a standstill when he drove his tractor into a shallow pool just west of the Washington Monument.

Dwight Ware Watson, 51, of Whitakers, N.C., was handed the prison time for his conviction on charges of making a false threat to detonate explosives, and destruction of federal property.

Business

Mutual fund scandal: Addressing an industry scandal, federal regulators are moving to decree that mutual fund boards have chairmen who are independent from the companies managing the funds.

The industry's trade group and several big-name fund companies fiercely oppose the far-reaching proposal and have been lobbying the Securities and Exchange Commis-



Jordan terrorism plot: A military police officer escorts one of two vans carrying 10 convicted militants entering Jordan's military court in Amman on Wednesday. The court upheld its guilty verdict for 10 militants convicted in a foiled terror conspiracy targeting Americans and Israelis living in Jordan during millennium celebrations. The verdict came a year after the Appeals Court asked military judges to re-examine their decision issued in September 2000 on the basis that the terror conspiracy may have been dismissed under a general amnesty issued by Jordan's King Abdullah II in March 1999.

sion, which narrowly favors the requirement, against adopting it.

The five-member SEC was scheduled to vote on the proposal at a public meeting Wednesday, the latest in a monthslong series of changes to fund operations aimed at bolstering investor confidence.

World

BBC reporting scandal: The British Broadcasting Corp. said Wednesday it is adopting new journalism guidelines in response to strong criticism of its reporting standards from a judicial inquiry.

The broadcaster will immediately impose stricter rules on live reports, the use of anonymous sources and note taking, based on the recommendations of an internal review, BBC director Mark Thompson said.

These issues were raised by a May 2003 report from former BBC radio reporter Andrew Gilligan, who quoted an anonymous source as saying Prime Minister Tony Blair's administration had "sexed up" evi-

Lord Hutton, the senior appeals judge who led the investigation, rejected the report and harshly criticized the BBC for slack reporting checks, throwing the broadcaster into one of the biggest crises in its 80-year history.

Russia attack: A nighttime attack this week in the Russian republic of Ingushetia by militants near the border of war-ravaged Chechnya killed 92 people and wounded 125, a regional government official said Wednesday.

Among the dead were 67 members of law enforcement agencies, said the official, Magomed Zivaudinov.

About 1,000 militants had taken part in the attacks late Monday night, Ziyadinnov said, quoting the Ingush Interior Ministry. Ingush officials had previously said about 200 fighters had participated.

Philippine election: The Philippine Congress formally proclaimed incumbent Gloria Macapagal Arroyo as the winner of last month's presidential election early Wednesday, ending a marathon count with a marathon session that underscored the country's bitter divisions.

With Arroyo's administration holding majorities in both the House and Senate, the result of the vote was never in doubt. But as throughout the six-week count, the opposition fought every step of the way, repeating claims that massive vote fraud stole victory from action film star Fernando Poe Jr.

Stories and photos from wire services

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Mayors urge Atsugi to reduce jet noise

BY HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

Mayors from cities hosting Atsugi Naval Air Facility urged the base this week to take measures to minimize jet noise.

Yamato City Mayor Kimiyasu Tsuchiya met with Capt. Reed Ekstrom, Atsugi's commander, on Tuesday, claiming that complaints from local residents have risen.

"We will take your word in consideration," Ekstrom said, and "do our best to minimize noise as much as possible," according to Yoshihiro Shimizu, the base's host nation relations officer. Ekstrom added that the base follows established guidelines for all flight operations around Atsugi.

Atsugi City Mayor Kazuyoshi Mikami also urged the base to take jet-noise measures in a Monday meeting with Ekstrom.

Both mayors said noise levels and resident complaints increased dramatically after the USS Kitty Hawk returned to Yokosuka Naval Base in May, according to city officials.

Night-landing practice set for July 12-16

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Night-landing practice for the USS Kitty Hawk's fighter pilots will be held July 12-16 at Atsugi Naval Air Facility and two Jima from 6 to 10 p.m. each night, the Navy announced Wednesday.

In an effort to limit the noise concerns of Japanese residents living near Atsugi, officials hope to conduct most of the operations at two Jima, according to a Navy news release.

If bad weather or other problems pre-

clude the training at two Jima, the practices will be spread among other bases, including Misawa, Yokota, Atsugi and Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station.

Night-landing practice has historically been one of the thornier issues between the Navy and Japanese citizens because of the noise it generates. Numerous complaints have been filed over the years, and the Navy has responded by making adjustments in the training's various aspects.

— Stars and Stripes

cent increase in the number of times noise was detected south of the runway, where it's the noisiest. The city measures noise levels at six locations and counts how many times they exceed 70 decibels for five sec-

onds. Officials also noticed increases in noise levels above 90 and 100 decibels.

Mikami also asked Ekstrom to resolve traffic jams at Atsugi's west gate, caused by construction to the main gate, according to an Atsugi City base liaison official.

Meanwhile, an official from Japan's Defense Facilities Administration Agency said Wednesday it plans to review 80 locations around Atsugi, which receives government subsidies for installing sound-proof walls in houses. The noise situation in the area has changed over the last 16 years, the official added, and new noise test findings are now taken into account.

The agency will present its findings to the local governments in August and finalize any new plan by the beginning of next year. DFAA acts as a go-between and takes measures to promote harmony between the defense facilities and local communities.

E-mail: Hana Kusumoto at: kusumotoh@jpsrtpes.osd.mil

Governor: Don't put more troops at Zama

BY HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Kanagawa's governor visited American officials in Washington on Monday and expressed concern about the U.S. bases in his prefecture.

Gov. Shigefumi Matsuzawa told Pentagon East Asia Affairs and State Department officials he opposes stationing any additional troops at the U.S. Army's Camp Zama, according to a news release from his office. Recent Japanese news reports, quoting unnamed sources, suggested possible U.S. troop moves, including Army I Corps headquarters moving to Zama and Okinawa-based U.S. Marines moving to the northern island of Hokkaido, most likely to the Yabusetsu Training Area.

According to the release, Matsuzawa told Pentagon officials he can't allow base buildup in a populated area and can't accept additional housing for U.S. service-

members. He said he wants U.S. bases — including Atsugi Naval Air Facility, Yokosuka Naval Base and Sagami Depot — to consolidate.

According to the release, U.S. officials said the Army wants modernization at Camp Zama.

Matsuzawa also urged the officials not to deploy a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier to Yokosuka after the USS Kitty Hawk returns in 2008, emphasizing the Japanese people's adverse reaction to nuclear power. The U.S. officials did not deny the possibility but asked for Japan's understanding, noting their confidence in its safety and the fact that no accidents have occurred, the release said.

Mayors of Sagami-hara and Zama cities near Camp Zama visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Tuesday, urging it to provide information regarding any troop movements to Camp Zama.

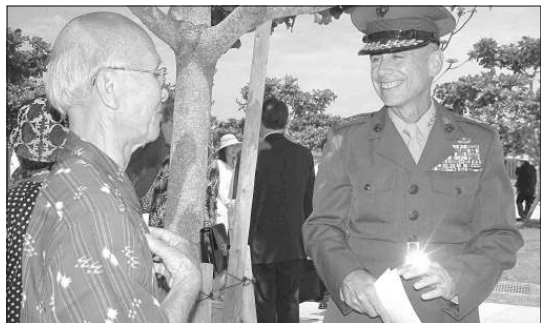
E-mail: Hana Kusumoto at: kusumotoh@jpsrtpes.osd.mil

A somber anniversary



MARK RANKIN/Stars and Stripes

Kowa Tasaki, from Chatan, Okinawa, lays flowers, rice and drinks Wednesday at a cenotaph in Okinawa Peace Prayer Park on Iman. Tasaki comes to the memorial every year to mourn his stepmother, Kyoko Koyama, who died in the Battle of Okinawa. Wednesday was the 59th anniversary of the end of the battle.



DAVID ALLEN/Stars and Stripes

Lt. Gen. Robert R. Blackman, commander Marine Corps Bases Japan, speaks with Ralph Tsuha, 80, a Japanese-American who served as a translator with the American invasion force during the Battle of Okinawa. Tsuha and many other Nisei settled on Okinawa after the war.

Par 3 course closure

Yokota Air Base, Japan, officials announced that the Par 3 Golf Course will be closed until 3 p.m. Sunday because of the Eikiden Strider's Race.

Nike Demo Days has been delayed until 3-6 p.m. The pro shop and driving range will be open normal hours.

Phase 2 of CARAT starts

About 1,400 U.S. sailors and Coast Guard personnel arrived in Brunei Darussalam, on the South China Sea island of Borneo, Monday for the second phase of Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training, according to a Navy news release.

The participants will work with the Royal Brunei Navy using two new systems: one that allows a shore-based headquar-

ters to track ships, and the other a communications channel used for secure e-mail and "chatting" between U.S. ships and other navies.

Staff from both nations will work aboard the USS Russell, one of five U.S. Navy ships involved in the exercise.

U.S. personnel also will volunteer in several community-relations projects in Brunei.

Brunei navy commander Col. Joharie Bin Haji Matussin acknowledged the 16th year of exercises between the two navies at a ceremony on Monday, according to the release.

CARAT is in its 10th year of naval exercises in the Southeast Asian region.

Following the Brunei segment of CARAT, U.S. personnel will train with the navies of Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines.

From staff reports

Al-Zarqawi threatens Iraqi prime minister

20 killed in airstrikes on Iraq hide-out

By Robert H. Reid

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's interim prime minister said Wednesday he was determined to confront the mastermind of bombings and beheadings who threatened to assassinate him, and the U.S. military said it killed 20 foreign fighters at the suspected terrorist's hide-out.

A recording purportedly made by Jordanian-born Abu Musab al-Zarqawi threatened to kill interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi and fight the Americans "until Islamic rule is back on Earth."

The audio was found Wednesday on an Islamic Web site from the group that claimed responsibility for the beheadings of American hostage Nicholas Berg and Kim Sun-il, a South Korean whose decapitated body was found Tuesday between Baghdad and Fallujah (See related story on Page 6).

After the playing, U.S. forces launched an airstrike on what the Americans said was an Al-Zarqawi hide-out in Fallujah. A senior coalition military official said 20 foreign fighters and terrorists were believed to have been killed in the Tuesday night strike. The official briefed reporters on condition of anonymity.

Dr. Loai Al Zeidan at Fallujah Hospital put the death toll at three with nine wounded. It was the second U.S. airstrike on Fallujah since Saturday.

"In both cases, we believe we hit significant numbers of Al-Zarqawi



A young Iraqi man looks at the destruction Wednesday in a parking lot that was hit in overnight airstrikes by the U.S. military in Fallujah, Iraq. On Tuesday night, the United States launched an airstrike on a safe house used by followers of Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

lieutenants and al-Zarqawi fighters," said another official, Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt. The airstrikes also destroyed large ammunition stores, Kimmitt, coalition deputy operations chief, said Wednesday in an interview with Associated Press Television News.

In the audiotape, the speaker thought to be al-Zarqawi told Allawi that "we will continue the game with you until the end." The speaker said "We will not get bored" until "we make you drink from the same glass" as Izzadine Saleem, the Iraqi Governing Council president killed last month in a car-bombing claimed by al-Zarqawi's group.

"We will carry on our jihad against the Western infidel and the Arab apostate until Islamic rule is back on Earth," the voice said.

An official with Allawi's office dismissed the threat, saying it would not derail the transfer of sovereignty next week.

President Bush called Allawi to "reiterate his commitment to the Iraqi people," said White House spokesman Scott McClellan.

During the call, which was scheduled before the al-Zarqawi statement, Allawi raised the topic of the assassination threat, McClellan said.

McClellan did not provide Bush's response but said Allawi "is determined to confront these terrorist threats."

Meanwhile, the U.S. government laid out its legal reasoning for denying terror war suspects the protections of international humanitarian law but immediately repudiated a key memo arguing that

torture might be justified in the fight against al-Qaida.

The release Tuesday of hundreds of pages of internal memos by the White House was meant to blunt criticism that Bush had laid the groundwork for the abuses of Iraqi prisoners by condoning torture. The president insisted Tuesday: "I have never ordered torture."

But critics said the developments left unresolved some questions about his administration's current guidelines for interrogating prisoners in Iraq and around the world.

"These documents raise more questions than they answer," said Charles Schumer, a Democratic senator from New York. "The White House is better off coming clean and releasing all relevant and nonclassified documents."

Saudis offer amnesty to terrorists

JIDDAH, Saudi Arabia — Saudi Arabia offered Islamic militants a limited amnesty on Wednesday, saying their lives would be spared if they surrendered but they would face the "full might" of state wrath if they did not.

They must surrender within a month, Crown Prince Abdullah said, reading a statement from his half-brother, King Fahd, on state television.

Abdullah said the offer was open to anyone who has not yet been "arrested for carrying out terrorist acts."

"We are opening the door of amnesty... to everyone who deviated from the path of right and committed a crime in the name of religion," he said. "We swear by God that nothing will prevent us from striking with our full might, which we derive from depending on God," anyone who ignores the offer, Abdullah said.

Saudi newspapers have published obituaries and reports of funerals for Saudis who are said to have died fighting the occupying forces in Iraq.

"We don't allow that," Prince Saud said when asked about Saudis fighting in Iraq. "Why should people go to Iraq for a holy war? Iraq is a Muslim country and the only religious duty in Iraq should be to help the Iraqi people. Any call for holy war (in Iraq) is illegitimate."

— The Associated Press

House hears arguments in favor of Reserve aid

By Patrick Dickson

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A movement to get all 50 states to enact financial aid measures for Guardsmen and reservists called to active duty got a boost Wednesday when one of its key proponents testified before Congress.

Illinois Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn was among the first to propose a "Military Family Relief Trust Fund," which was signed into law in February 2003.

Since then the state "has paid out \$1.3 million to 2,500 families — so far," Quinn said in a Tuesday telephone interview.

With more than 150,000 Guard and Reserve members activated in the war on terrorism, the House Committee on Veterans held the hearing to examine federal laws protecting those service members' legal, financial and job rights while they are away and when they return.

In addition to any federal ef-

forts, 13 states are pursuing legislation [see box].

Quinn and others want laws such as those that would prevent schools from charging out-of-district rates for children who have moved in with caregivers when a parent, perhaps a single parent, is called up.

He also is pursuing a public education campaign, citing abuses by employers who are unaware of the law, or unwilling to follow it.

"We want to make sure shop foremen, line supervisors and others understand that when one of their employees is called up, when they come back, they have a job" or are not otherwise penalized, Quinn said.

He cited the town of Rockton, Ill., which has terminated Sp. Jeremiah Johnson of the 333rd Military Police Co., serving in Iraq.

"They intend to test the law," Quinn said. "We've called the mayor, the City Council, the po-

lice chief... we've asked them repeatedly to comply with state and federal law," he said. The Illinois attorney general has filed suit on behalf of Johnson.

But the focus is on the trust funds, Quinn said.

"You're always going to have a situation where [a deploying reservist's] pay is reduced. Our concept in Illinois is that this is a token of appreciation," he said. "Anyone can apply for a \$500 grant, and if there's a hardship — your gas is turned off, you're defaulting on the mortgage — then we can give you as much as \$2,000."

Quinn quotes Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural address when pushing legislation: "[L]et us strive on... to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and orphan."

Service members and concerned citizens can go to www.operationhomefront.org for more information.

E-mail Pat Dickson at: dicksonp@stripes.osd.mil

MILITARY RELIEF BILLS ACROSS U.S.

CALIFORNIA: Bill 1928 passed the House and went to the Senate. On May 13, the bill was referred to the Revenue and Taxation Committee. The original bill was amended to exclude the Reserve. Passed out of Revenue and Taxation on June 9 and referred to appropriations. Appropriations hearing date is Monday.

CONNECTICUT: Raised Bill 317 establishes the Connecticut National Guard Relief Account, and places a check-off on tax return. On March 9 the bill was referred to appropriations committee.

IOWA: Senate File 428 and House File 522 are both in committee.

MAINE: Bill has passed both the House and Senate and was signed by the governor on May 11.

MISSOURI: SB 1336 passed the Senate and is in the House.

MICHIGAN: Introduced HB 5953 in the House, was to go to committee on Tuesday.

MINNESOTA: House Bill HF 2817 was introduced March 8 to establish a tax check-off to fund grants for National Guard and Reserve called to active duty. Bill referred to Committee on Taxes, March 10.

NEW YORK: Sen. Larkin introduced S.6627 with 22 co-sponsors in the Senate. Referred to Committee on Rules. House bill has passed.

NORTH CAROLINA: House Bill 1481 to establish tax check-off box to fund Soldiers and Airmen Assistance Fund. Referred to Rules committee May 17.

PENNSYLVANIA: HB 2509 introduced in the House and referred to finance committee.

RHODE ISLAND: Bill H.7834 has passed out of the House.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Bill SB 0767 Passed the Senate and House.

WYOMING: SF 0059 was signed by the governor on March 9. Wyoming has paid out \$35,000 to 15 families as of June 8.

Source: Office of Illinois Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn. Status is as of Tuesday.

U.S. offers plan to end N. Korea standoff

Pyongyang would be given energy aid, 'security guarantees' for dismantling nuke program

BY AUDRA ANG
The Associated Press

BEIJING — U.S. negotiators presented the first detailed American proposal Wednesday on resolving the standoff with North Korea, offering the North energy aid and a security guarantee in exchange for dismantling its nuclear program.

The proposal is meant to break an impasse in talks that began their third round after earlier negotiations brought no progress on Washington's demand for the North to scrap its nuclear program.

The step-by-step plan would begin with Pyongyang freezing its nuclear program for a three-month period to prepare for dismantling, during which it would list all nuclear activities and allow monitoring of its facilities, U.S. officials said.

North Korea didn't immediately reply to the seven-page proposal presented during the opening session of the third round of talks at a Chinese government guesthouse, the officials said.

The North's envoy, Vice Foreign Minister Kim Gye Gwan, said

earlier that Pyongyang was willing to renounce nuclear weapons in exchange for aid and an end to Washington's "hostile policy."

"What we will be presenting is a practical series of steps to achieve the complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of North Korea's nuclear program," White House press secretary Scott McClellan said, traveling with President Bush in Philadelphia.

"One way to look at this is to look at the Libya model: Good faith action on North Korea's part will be met with good-faith response by the other parties," he said.

It is the first detailed U.S. offer to North Korea since President Bush took office and lumped it into an "axis of evil" with Iran and Iraq.

South Korea said it would provide fuel for the North once it declares the freeze. But the timetable for any benefits the North might receive for each stage of the process still must be worked out, the U.S. officials said.

Under the proposal, the United States and the other four nations participating in the talks — South

Korea, China, Japan, Russia and the United States — would give North Korea "provisional security guarantees" while the nuclear dismantling work is carried out, according to the American officials.

North Korea has insisted that without such a guarantee, it must keep its nuclear program to deter a possible U.S. attack.

"That you would have to have North Korea commit to the dismantlement of its nuclear program," McClellan said. Then the two sides would agree to "a detailed implementation plan."

South Koreans vent anger, sorrow over beheading of hostage in Iraq

BY HANS GREIMEL
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — A South Korea "wrenched with grief" poured out its sorrow and anger Wednesday over the beheading of a South Korean hostage in Iraq, while the president reaffirmed his resolve to dispatch more troops there and vowed to "deal sternly" with terrorism.

The nation awoke to banner headlines that militants had killed Kim Sun-il, a 33-year-old employee of a supply company in Iraq, after Seoul refused to meet the kidnappers' demand of scrapping its planned troop deployment.

The execution renewed debate over South Korea's contribution to the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq, and authorities heightened security at government buildings and the U.S. Embassy in case of protests over Kim's death or President Roh Moo-hyun's plan to send 3,000 additional troops.

When complete, the dispatch will make South Korea the largest coalition partner after the United States and Britain.

"The government was irresponsible and didn't do enough to save him," said Park Bong-ju, a 28-year-old office worker. "This tragedy happened because of the government's plan to send troops. We must cancel a dispatch plan and withdraw soldiers who are already in Iraq."

About 2,000 protesters gathered at a candlelight vigil Wednesday night to mourn Kim's death and oppose the troop dispatch, but were outnumbered by legions of riot police. Many held placards reading "Bush and Roh killed Kim Sun-il" or "We don't want to die. Korean troops get out."

However, there was also defiant support for the troop dispatch.

South Korea's largest newspaper, Chosun Ilbo, said in an editorial: "This incident was shocking and tragic, but it mustn't shake our decision and principle to send troops to Iraq. If by this incident the voices against dispatching troops to Iraq grow louder, it will result in nothing but fulfilling perfectly the intention of the terrorists."

Kim's plight has gripped the nation since Sunday, when a video released by his captors showed a bedraggled Kim pleading for the government to end its involvement in Iraq, screaming "I don't want to die."

Kim was a devout Christian, who once considered missionary work in the Arab world, South Korean media have reported. His body was found by the U.S. military west of Baghdad on Tuesday night.

Kim was believed to have been killed about 14 hours earlier, South Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman Shin Bong-ik said citing an evaluation by a U.S. military doctor.

Shin also cited Kim's employer, Kim Chun-ho of Cana General Trading Co., as saying that Kim went missing around May 31, nearly three weeks earlier than the June 17 date he had earlier told authorities.

Kim's boss had been conducting his own search in the meantime and was in contact with South Korean officials only after the death threat was aired Sunday by the pan-Arab TV station Al-Jazeera.

In a televised address Wednesday morning, Roh called the slaying a "crime against humanity," and condemned terrorism, vowing "to deal sternly with it together with the international community."

"We think of his desperate appeals for life, our hearts are wrenched with grief," Roh said.

South Korea quickly reaffirmed its commitment to the troop dispatch after Kim's death, and Roh tried to assure both his country and the Iraqis that South Korean soldiers would help rebuild Iraq, not fight its people.

Some South Koreans responded to the execution with a rallying cry to stand tough.

"This is time for the nation to tighten its unity and show to the world we stand together in a difficult time," said Cho Hang-duk, a 42-year-old



HANGYERE NEWS PAPER/AP

Kim Jung-soo, sister of slain South Korean Kim Sun-il, who was kidnapped in Iraq, cries after hearing that Kim had been killed. Kim's portrait is seen at background at his sister's home in Busan, southern South Korea, early Wednesday.

office worker. "I don't think the government should cancel its troop deployment."

But a group of 50 lawmakers, many from Roh's ruling Uri Party, urged the government to "stop and reconsider" the dispatch.

"It is impossible to implement the task of peace and reconstruction at a time when not only the troops, but also ordinary civilians, are under threat — as witnessed by the killing of Mr. Kim Sun-il," the resolution said.

Civic groups called for a cancellation of the deployment, and student groups said they would hang black-and-white mourning banners and build funeral altars on campuses while stepping up their campaigns and demonstrations against the troop dispatch.

South Korea said it would redouble its efforts to evacuate South Korean civilians in Iraq to prevent a repeat hostage crisis. In April, seven South Korean missionaries were briefly detained by armed men in Iraq.

Students' Cuba trips

HAVANA — American students have visited Cuba for years, immersing themselves in Afro-Cuban culture, studying the communist country's revolution and following Ernest Hemingway's trail.

But those trips to Cuba are expected to drop dramatically after new U.S. measures aimed at pushing out Cuban leader Fidel Castro and squeezing the island's economy take effect on June 30.

Despite a restrictive travel ban, U.S. universities with a U.S. government license can bring undergraduate and graduate students for study programs generally lasting from a week to a month. But under new rules, such trips must be at least 10 weeks long — a requirement critics say will make it impossible for many students.

"Most people can't come for a full semester," said Wayne Smith, an adjunct professor at Johns Hopkins University who brings students to Cuba every year. "Almost everybody comes for a short-term program because that fits into their schedules back home."

"The purpose is to stop educational travel," said Smith, who was chief U.S. diplomat in Cuba 25 years ago and now a senior fellow at the Washington-based Center for International Policy.

"Yet we (the United States) are supposed to be the champions of academic freedoms and the exchange of ideas."

WTO membership delay

GENEVA — Vietnam will be unable to join the World Trade Organization as it hoped by Jan. 1 next year because it still needs to amend domestic laws and reach agreements with member states, trade officials have said.

During recent meetings with WTO officials here, Deputy Trade Minister Luong Van Tu said his country wanted to join the rule-making body for global trade "as soon as possible."

From wire reports

Rough reporting

Editor's death shows dangers of working along Mexico border

BY WILL WEISSERT

The Associated Press

TJUANA, Mexico — Francisco Ortiz Franco was a tough editor dedicated to investigative journalism in this rough border city dominated by drug gangs, migrant smugglers and organized crime.

When a colleague was killed in 1998 and another nearly slain in 1997, he insisted his crusading weekly newspaper, Zeta, would not back down.

That defiance apparently cost him his life Tuesday, when an unidentified assailant shot him dead in broad daylight.

The attack on Ortiz sparked an outcry from President Vicente Fox, international press groups and the publication's editorial board, which demanded a thorough investigation.

It also once again called attention to the dangers confronting journalists who work along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Ortiz was gunned down Tuesday as he left a clinic with his children, said Raul Gutierrez, spokesman for the state attorney general's office.

Ortiz was a founder of Zeta, which has been recognized for its reporting on the influence of drug traffickers in Tijuana since it began publishing in 1980.

His slaying was the latest in a series of attacks on the newspaper's leaders.

Zeta's co-founder, Hector Felix Miranda, was ambushed and killed on April 20, 1998.

Two men were convicted in the shooting, one of them a bodyguard at a local race track owned by Jorge Hank Rhon, a businessman from one of Mexico's most powerful political families who is now running for mayor of Tijuana.

In 1997, the newspaper's publisher, Jesus Blancornelas, was badly wounded in a gangland-style attack that killed his bodyguard and driver, Luis Lauro Valero.

Shortly before he was shot, Blancornelas had written a column blaming David Barron Corona, a reputed lieutenant in the Arellano Felix drug gang, for a machine-gun slaying of two federal agents outside a Tijuana courthouse. Barron was among the men who attacked Blancornelas. He died in the cossfire.



Francisco Ortiz Franco

Ortiz vowed at the time that such threats would not deter the staff.

Ortiz was among several journalists and government officials working with the Miami-based Inter-American Press Association on an investigation into Felix Miranda's murder.

The association, or IAPA, issued a statement Tuesday afternoon expressing its "outrage" at Ortiz's killing.

IAPA President Jack Fuller, of the Tribune Publishing Co., said he was appalled by the slaying of "a journalist and family man who was outstanding not only as a publisher and person but also for having generously offered his help in a cause in our profession: that there be better investigation and that justice be done."

Haiti mission gives S. American troops opportunity to flex

BY ADAM RANEY

The Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — South American countries are taking on a new role as the vanguard of a new U.N. stabilization force in Haiti, and Pvt. Herman Veron knows the world will be watching.

The 21-year-old army radio operator is one of more than 600 Argentine troops waiting to ship out for Haiti as part of a U.N. peacekeeping mission that will be dominated by South Americans, a new role for their militaries.

"Everybody will be watching to see we do the job right," Veron said during training in Buenos Aires.

The Argentines will work with Brazilian troops leading the force in Haiti. Paraguayans, Chileans and Uruguayans also are expected to take part, along with a smattering of troops and military police from China, Nepal and Rwanda.

Analysts say the large presence is part of South American leaders' efforts to take larger roles in U.N. and multilateral operations. It's also a bid to show less dependence on Washington in resolving regional crises, Argentine political analyst Rosendo Fraga said.

"These countries [are] assum-

ing responsibility for Latin America without waiting for solutions that only come from the U.S.," he said.

The peacekeeping missions also give countries like Argentina and Chile a chance to boost their militaries' democratic credentials only years after authoritarian rule.

"Missions like this one offer these countries an opportunity to give the military a facelift. It shows that they can cooperate at an international level," Jennifer Leight of the Washington-based Council on Hemispheric Affairs said.

Argentina was ruled by a right-wing military junta from 1976 until 1983 and Chile was led by Gen. Augusto Pinochet from September 1972 until 1990. A military dictatorship ran Brazil from 1964 to 1985.

The Brazilians will take formal command on Friday from a U.S.-led multinational force. Only a few Americans will stay on.

Veron and his fellow soldiers spent the past weeks at the Campo de Mayo base northwest of Buenos Aires conducting mock patrols and disarmament drills. Trying to disarm politically allied factions will be one of its main challenges.

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U.S. drops measure to protect peacekeepers

BY EDITH M. LEDERER
The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Facing strong opposition, the United States announced Wednesday it was dropping a resolution seeking a new exemption for American peacekeepers from international prosecution for war crimes.

U.S. deputy ambassador James Cunningham made the announcement Wednesday, saying the resolution would limit the exemption to one final year failed to win support from key Security Council opponents.

Several council members said the abuse of Iraqi detainees by U.S. soldiers and Secretary-General Kofi Annan's opposition to renewing the exemption for a third year were factors in their refusal to back the compromise.

The current one-year exemption expires on June 30.

President Bush's administration argues that the International

Americans would no longer be free from international prosecution for war crimes

Criminal Court — which started operating last year — could be used for frivolous or politically motivated prosecutions of American troops.

The 94 countries that have ratified the 1998 Rome Treaty establishing the court maintain it contains enough safeguards to prevent frivolous prosecutions and insist that nobody should be exempt.

Cunningham stressed that the United States is "the largest contributor to global security and has special well-known interests in protecting our forces and our officials."

"We believe that our draft and its predecessors fairly meet the concerns of all. Not all council

members agree, however, and the United States has decided not to proceed further with consideration and action on the draft at this time in order to avoid a prolonged and divisive debate," he said after a closed council meeting.

When the court was established nearly two years ago, the United States threatened to end its involvement in far-flung peacekeeping operations established or authorized by the United Nations if it didn't get an exemption for American peacekeepers.

Cunningham refused to say what the United States would do when the next U.N. peacekeeping operation comes up for renewal in the Security Council.

In his statement, he said that

"in the absence of a new resolution, the United States will need to take into account the risk of ICC (International Criminal Court) review when determining contributions to U.N. authorized or established operations."

Before the council meeting, Spain and China said they would abstain if the resolution was put to a vote and Philippines Ambassador Lauro Baisa, the current council president, said he doubted that the United States had the minimum nine "yes" votes needed to adopt it.

Last week, Annan — in a rare intervention — urged the council not to renew the U.S. exemption, citing the Iraqi prisoner abuse and raising "serious doubts" about the legality of an exemption.

He also warned against dividing the United Nations' most powerful body.

Spanish Ambassador Juan Antonio Yanez-Barnuevo welcomed the U.S. decision to drop the resolution, and said that Annan's statement "had a powerful effect."

William Pace, head of the Coalition for an International Criminal Court, called the U.S. decision "a victory for international justice" and said U.S. concern about prosecution of American peacekeepers "was always exaggerated."

The United States circulated a resolution last month that would have authorized a new exemption, but it ran into stiff opposition from court supporters.

The International Criminal Court can prosecute cases of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity committed after it was established on July 1, 2002, but will step in only when countries are unwilling or unable to dispense justice themselves.

House OKs \$417B bill for defense spending

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday approved a \$417 billion defense spending bill that includes an initial \$25 billion for U.S. operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, plus billions of dollars for major weapons systems.

The Senate was debating its defense bill at press time.

The House measure also has money for the 3.5 percent military pay raise that President Bush requested and increases Basic Allowance for Housing, eliminating servicemen's average out-of-pocket housing expenses from 3.5 percent to zero in fiscal year 2005.

In May, both houses' Armed Services Committees agreed to the 3.5 percent figure.

The 403-17 vote underscored an election-year, bipartisan consensus behind military spending that wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have accentuated.

If anything, Democrats think Bush has requested too little for operations in the two countries in the

fiscal year starting Oct. 1 and predict the \$25 billion requested for the latter months of this year will prove at least \$50 billion too low.

While Bush wanted to decide exactly how his requested \$25 billion for Iraq and Afghanistan would be spent, the House limited his control to \$1 billion of the money.

The rest was assigned to 22 specific accounts, such as \$674 million earmarked to provide armor for Humvee vehicles.

Meanwhile, the Senate voted Wednesday to require President Bush to report to the Republican-controlled Congress on his efforts to stabilize Iraq, but he won't have to estimate how many troops will remain in the country.

Senators rejected that, along with a provision to lower the retirement age for National Guard and reservists from 60 to 55.

Those issues were in amendments to a massive defense authorization bill for the coming year, which senators were trying to finish before next week's recess.

Associated Press Writer Alan Fram and Stripes editor Pat Dickson contributed to this report.



Former President Clinton shakes hands while signing copies of his book, "My Life," at the Hue-Man bookstore in the Harlem section of New York on Tuesday.

Clinton blames affair on stress

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former President Clinton says he was "prettily wigged out" with stress when he and Monica Lewinsky had an affair and said he thought he'd lose the office if he acknowledged it publicly in a timely fashion.

In a nationally broadcast interview aired Wednesday, Clinton also said he still feels sorry for Lewinsky and hopes she "won't be trapped in what Andy Warhol called everybody's 15 minutes of fame."

Continuing a series of public appearances in connection with the release of his memoirs, "My Life," the former president said, "I feel sorry because, as she said herself, she was betrayed by her friend and then she got caught up in this big media and (special counsel Kenneth) Starr embroglio."

"And none of it would have happened if I hadn't done anything wrong, and I feel sorry about it," Clinton said on NBC's "Today" show. He called Lewinsky "a really intelligent person and a fundamentally good person."

Clinton acknowledged under heavy Starr pressure that he had had an affair with Lewinsky, who once was a White House intern. Part of the pressure came from Lewinsky friend Linda Tripp, who tape-recorded telephone conversations she had with Lewinsky.

"You can say I handed them the sword all right, but that does not excuse what he did in trampling the Constitution," he said on ABC's "Good Morning America."

"And so while I'm responsible for what I did, they're responsible for what they did and they can't make me responsible for what they did any more than I can blame them for the mistakes I made," he said.

Asked what he was thinking when he began his relationship with Lewinsky, he said that "most personal encounters are not entirely rational."

"Secondly, I'm not sure most people would be entirely rational if they had been bankrupted and seen their friends indicted because they wouldn't be, seen innocent people sent to jail and seen people in your business cover it up and legitimize what happened," he said. "So I was pretty wigged out. I was mad. I was mad at myself for losing the Congress because I tried to jam too much change down the American system in '93 and '94."

Asked why he didn't immediately acknowledge the affair when stories about it broke in early 1998, Clinton said, "I didn't do it because there was so much hysteria and because I didn't know what Ken Starr was going to do to anybody."

EPA: Toxic pollution rises in 2002, reversing trend

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Toxic chemical releases into the environment rose 5 percent in 2002, marking only the second such increase reported by the Environmental Protection Agency in nearly two decades, and the first since 1997.

Figures also show that Houston area refineries and petrochemical plants release three times more toxic air pollution than they report to the federal government.

Nationwide, some 479 billion pounds of toxic chemicals were released in 2002, the latest for which figures are available, not including releases from metal mining, the EPA reports. The agency stopped including that data because of a recent court decision.

The increase reversed a trend, and was a turnaround from last year's report by EPA that chemical releases in 2001 had declined 13 percent from a year earlier.

More airlines gave out passenger data

Acting transportation security chief said information also came from reservation computers

BY LESLIE MILLER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More airlines than previously disclosed gave personal data on passengers to the government for testing a computerized, background-check project, acting Transportation Security Administration chief David Stone said Wednesday.

Passenger data was obtained from at least two computerized reservation systems, Sabre and Galileo International, and from four more airlines than previously revealed: Delta, Continental Airlines, America West Airlines and Frontier Airlines, Stone said.

His testimony came during a confirmation hearing by the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee on his nomination as TSA administrator.

The data — known as passenger name records, or PNR — include credit card

numbers, travel reservation information, address, telephone number and mail requests, which can indicate a passenger's religion or ethnicity.

In all but one case, the data was intended for testing an anti-terrorism project that would use personal information to assign threat levels to all airline passengers.

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, criticized TSA for being slow to reveal the full extent of the transfer of passenger data to the government. She asked for a detailed account of what TSA did with the passenger data it collected.

"In the fight against terrorism, we have to be careful not to trample on our values," Collins said.

Privacy advocates, meanwhile, promptly called for a congressional investigation.

"There was a massive amount of passenger data secretly provided to the government, and in many cases, the disclosures

also violated privacy assurances the airlines had given to their passengers," said David Sobel, general counsel for the Electronic Privacy Information Center, a privacy group.

The program for screening passengers, called the Computer-Assisted Passenger-Preprocessing System, or CAPPS II, has been delayed because U.S. airlines refused to turn over passenger data for testing after revelations that some had already done so.

Northwest, JetBlue and American have been criticized for handing over such data — without the knowledge of their passengers — to the government or its vendors in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

Stone's testimony revealed:

■ Delta Air Lines in February 2002 gave passenger information to the Secret Service to prepare for the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics.

■ In May 2002, American Airlines agreed to TSA's request to authorize its vendor, Airline Automation, Inc., to turn over passenger data to four companies working with the government to demonstrate the feasibility of assigning risk to passengers, flights, airlines and airports. Some of those companies independently obtained passenger data from airlines and reservation systems including Delta Air Lines, Continental Airlines, America West Airlines, Frontier Airlines and Galileo International.

■ In May 2003 Sabre gave a computer disk with an unknown amount of information to the TSA to test parts of the CAPPS II system.

■ In Spring 2003, JetBlue gave data to TSA "in order to determine whether changes could be made to the CAPPS system that would address what appeared to be a disproportionate impact of that system on passengers of certain airlines," Stone said.

Lawyers suggest jail-time changes

BY ANNE GEARAN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy said Wednesday that society should re-examine how it spends money and makes choices about who goes to prison, how long they stay and what happens when they get out.

He accepted the first copy of a report from the American Bar Association, which found that many get-tough approaches to crime don't work and some, such as mandatory minimum sentences for small-time drug offenders, are unfair and should be abolished.

Laws requiring mandatory minimum prison terms leave little room to consider differences among crimes and criminals, an ABA commission studying problems in the criminal justice system found.

More people are behind bars for longer terms but it is unclear whether the country is safer as a result, the ABA said.

Long prison terms should be reserved for criminals who pose the greatest danger to society and who commit the most serious crimes, the report said. States and the federal government should find alternatives to prison terms such as drug treatment for many less serious crimes.

"The costs of the American experiment in mass incarceration have been high," the report said. It said states and the federal government spent \$9 billion on jails and prisons in 1982 and \$49 billion in 1999, an increase of more than 400 percent.



A juror who spoke to Brent Rocha, left, brother of Laci Peterson, was removed Wednesday from the murder trial of Laci's husband, Scott Peterson, by the judge in the case. Rocha's wife, Rose Marie Rocha, is at right.

Juror in Peterson trial removed

BY BRIAN SKOLOFF

The Associated Press

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. — A juror who was spotted talking to Laci Peterson's brother was removed from Scott Peterson's murder trial on Wednesday, but the judge denied a defense motion for a mistrial.

Juror No. 5 admitted discussing with his girlfriend the media coverage of his exchange with Laci Peterson's brother, according to a transcript of a closed-door meeting with Judge Alfred A. Delucchi. The judge did not specify why he dismissed the juror.

"You're not to listen to, watch or read any media reports of this trial," Delucchi admonished the panel before selecting an alternate to take the juror's place.

Peterson's lawyer, Mark Geragos, demanded a mistrial, saying media coverage has tainted the case.

"I've got a client who is on trial for his life," he said. "I think it's an outrage what is going on in this case."

Peterson, 31, is accused of murdering his pregnant wife, Laci, on or around Dec. 24, 2002, then dumping her body from his small boat into San Francisco Bay. He told police he went fishing that morning and returned to an empty house.

Outside court, the ousted juror identified himself as Justin Falconer, 28, an airport screener, and said

he would have found Peterson innocent if asked to deliberate the case now.

"He'd be innocent because the prosecution hasn't given us any reason to believe otherwise so far," he said. "Yeah he lied about a couple of things that we saw in there, but I haven't seen anything to make me believe that he committed this crime."

The judge didn't specify why he dismissed Falconer, but Falconer told reporters Delucchi suggested he was removed because he had become a "distraction."

That was an apparent reference to the incident last week in which Falconer briefly exchanged words with Laci Peterson's brother at the courthouse's mental detector.

Delucchi subpoenaed video footage but concluded the juror did nothing wrong by joking with Brent Rocha that he was blocking television cameras from getting an unobstructed shot — a story Rocha corroborated.

The juror had also been seen almost daily giving a nod and a slight smile to the defense table as he passed by on the way to the jury box.

His removal came just before Geragos launched into a caustic cross-examination of the detective who first investigated Laci Peterson's disappearance.

After a few minutes of the cross-examination of Detective Allen Brocchini, the judge recessed for lunch so that "everybody can calm down."

You like potato, and I like low-carb

BY RON WORD

The Associated Press

SPUDS, Fla. — For dieters, potatoes have been scorned, rejected and castigated — the Rodney Dangerfield of vegetables, they get no respect.

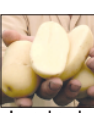
Many weight-loss programs, including the Atkins and the South Beach diets, advocate meat and cheese over high-carbohydrate potatoes, pasta and bread.

Come January, carb-counters who love potatoes may find cause to rejoice a bit. Florida growers will be picking a potato they hope will be a hot one — it claims one-third fewer carbs than the ordinary spud.

"Consumers are going to love the flavor and appearance of this potato and the fact that it has 30 percent fewer carbohydrates compared to a standard Russet baking potato," said Chad Hutchinson, an assistant professor of horticulture at University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

After five years of testing in the sandy soils near here in the heart of Florida's potato country, Hutchinson's Institute of Food and Agriculture said the potato, which had a shorter growing cycle, was disease-resistant and able to handle Florida's extreme weather. He then learned about its lower-carb properties.

"That was just gravy," he said. The new baseball-size potato will be available in supermarkets and restaurants in January.



Low-carb spuds

FACES 'N' PLACES

'It's Julie'

Nashville music mogul's secretary turns out to be singer with soulful voice

BY ERIC R. DANTON
The Hartford Courant

It might as well be a fairy tale. Julie Roberts, office girl with golden voice, answers phones for Nashville label chief by day and sings with a band in bars by night.

One day her boss hears demos she has worked on in secret and is stunned to learn that the voice that has captivated him belongs to his assistant down the hall.

She gets a record deal, of course, and a publicity blowout that includes a seven-page photo spread in *Maxim*, a feature story in *Glamour* and a behind-the-scenes account of her improbable rise on Country Music Television.

Not bad for someone who at this time last year was still taking lunch orders.

"It really is a blessing," Roberts says from her home in Nashville during a break from promoting her self-titled debut. "I moved to Nashville to sing. I didn't know how I was going to get to sing. I just gave it to God."

The album, on Mercury, is a homey collection of first-rate country tunes. But what makes "Julie Roberts" special is Julie Roberts. It's her full-bodied voice, which she can twist into an earthy growl or use to pour on

emotion until you're blinking back tears. That's what caught the notice of Brent Rowan, a veteran session guitarist and producer who has worked with Joe Nichols, Tim McGraw, Toby Keith and Neil Diamond.

After hearing a recording of Roberts and her band, Rowan offered to work with the singer, and the two began cutting songs whenever both could find time. He says her potential is unlimited.

"For me, music is down to two things: I either believe it, or I don't, and with her, I just believed it," Rowan says. "Her voice seemed to come from a really deep well of pain in her being, just that soulfulness."

Rowan eventually played a handful of Roberts' demos at the end of a routine meeting with her boss, Luke Lewis, the president of MCA and Mercury operations in Nashville. Lewis demanded to know the singer's name, but Rowan refused until after the last tune ended. Then he said, "It's Julie."

"My first reaction was disbelief," Lewis said. "Then I felt foolish for not knowing how talented she was when we had worked so closely."

Lewis didn't know because Roberts was careful to keep it from him.

The 25-year-old singer moved



AP photos

Country music singer Julie Roberts was a secretary by day, and singing in nightclubs by night before her boss heard her demo tape.

from South Carolina to Nashville five years ago to finish college at Belmont University. She was enrolled in the college's entertainment and music business program, which secured her an internship with MCA/Mercury. After two years as an intern, the company hired her as a receptionist, never knowing of her aspirations to sing.

"I never talked about it at work because I was scared," Roberts said. "At Belmont, I remember being told, 'If you're a

singer, don't talk about it, and don't force it on somebody if you're going to go work at a record label.' So I never talked about it; it was my night life. It was my other life, really."

Now it's her life full time, and Roberts seems undaunted even by the risk of overexposure from the publicity surrounding her debut.

"I'm not going to complain one bit. I'm not going to say, 'No, don't do Maxim,' because I'm afraid of too much hype," she says.

Dylan ready to play ball

Bob Dylan will tour minor-league ballparks across the country this summer, beginning Aug. 6 in Cooperstown, N.Y., home of the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Dylan will be joined on the

22-date concert tour by Willie Nelson and The Hot Club of Cowtown. The tour will run through Sept. 4, Columbia Records announced Monday.

The Bob Dylan Show will include stops in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Kansas.



Dylan

Bon Jovi sell-off

Years ago, Alec John Such provided the backbeat as bassist for Bon Jovi. It's been 10 years since he left the band, and he wants to move to a smaller place.

So he decided to auction some memorabilia Sunday from Colts Neck, N.J., the third such sale he's had in recent years. This time, though, there weren't many buyers.

A few Fender bass guitars sold for \$700 to \$750, and a 1960 MGA Roadster convertible went for \$7,500. All told, the auction netted about \$30,000 from 300 items.

Last year, a similar auction sold 1,200 items and made a \$300,000 profit, and a 2000 auction took in \$400,000.

Such also said his colonial-style home and three acres of property.

"I broke my hip when my car was hit head-on by a drunk driver in 1995," said Such, 52. "I just don't feel like walking up and down stairs anymore."

Opera rocks

Opera classics by Giacomo Puccini, Giuseppe Verdi and Richard Wagner will be performed at Denmark's annual Roskilde Festival, one of Europe's biggest outdoor rock events.

Members of the Danish Royal Opera, a chamber choir and a symphony orchestra will play during the July 1-4 musical festival known more for its rock, punk, funk and hip-hop jams.

"It is always exciting when the arts break out of their tight frames and meet with other genres," Kasper Bech Holten, director of the Royal Theater's opera troupe, said Friday.

Besides the opera — dubbed by the official program as "the most alternative genre" of the festival lineup — an estimated 40,000 fans will also see and hear more than 150 artists on the festival's six stages, including David Bowie, the Pixies, Morrissey, Sahara Hotlants and Arvil Lavigne.

First held in 1971, Roskilde, 25 miles west of the capital, Copenhagen, was inspired by the 1969 Woodstock Festival in upstate New York.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Roberts performs at a mall in Pineville, N.C., in May. After her performance, Roberts autographed copies of her CD for her fans.

Celebrating clean living

Ala. city marks 50 years without 'Sin'-ful moniker

BY PHILLIP RAWLS
The Associated Press

PHENIX CITY, Ala. — Fifty years ago, "Sin City, U.S.A." wasn't a sexy slogan for Las Vegas. It was an accurate description of Phenix City — a place so wicked that Gen. George S. Patton threatened to flatten it with his tanks.

This river town across from Fort Benning, Ga., offered every imaginable vice: gambling, prostitution, bootleg liquor, drugs, numbers. There were back-room abortions and there was baby-selling.

Phenix City even had a school for safe crackers.

All that began to change on June 18, 1954, when the winner in the Alabama attorney general's

race — elected on a pledge to clean up Sin City — was assassinated outside his law office.

The murder of Albert Patterson led to a crackdown in Phenix City. Today, a sign proudly proclaims it as the home of the 1999 U.S. Little League champion.

Phenix City is showing off its wholesome ways with a two-month celebration. Between July 10 and Aug. 28, the city will have concerts, fireworks and 1950s-themed events to acknowledge its past and celebrate its transformation into a family-friendly town of 28,500.

"We are going to do this in a way that makes the people of Phenix City feel good about themselves," Mayor Sonny Coulter said.

Today, virtually all signs of

Phenix City's past are gone, except for the building where Patterson practiced law.

For much of its history, this city across the Chattahoochee River from Columbus, Ga., was a den of iniquity.

Ray Jenkins, a retired newspaper editor who shared a Pulitzer Prize for his coverage of Phenix City, said the town was a bedroom community for low-income families who worked in the Columbus cotton mills and textile factories. Vice was its only industry, Jenkins said.

Criminals infiltrated local government, rigging elections and paying off officials. The crime figures were meticulous about paying their taxes, which kept taxes for others in Phenix City low.



BIRMINGHAM (ALA.) POST-HERALD/AP

Alabama National guardsmen stand outside police headquarters June 18, 1954, in Phenix City, Ala., after the Democratic nominee for attorney general, Albert Patterson was shot to death. The assassination led to a crackdown in Phenix City, home to every vice imaginable at the time.

And they made regular donations to churches and civic causes — money that made them part of the fabric of the community.

Albert Patterson's son, John Patterson, recalls that his father lost his seat on his church's board when he objected to the church's accepting a donation from someone involved in crime.

That activity grew rapidly in the buildup to World War II because of the flow of troops through Fort Benning. The toughest soldiers in the world became suckers in Phenix City, where their drinks were spiked and their pay was stolen. Those who resisted were sometimes beaten or killed.

While stationed at Fort Benning in 1940, Patton threatened to level the town, and Secretary of War Henry Stimson called it "the wickedest city in America."

Despite the wide-open crime, state and federal officials took a hands-off approach, calling it a local matter.

Albert Patterson ran for attorney general in 1954. He narrowly won the Democratic primary despite voter fraud aimed at helping his opponent. But one night, after working late at his Phenix City office, Patterson was gunned down next to his car.

A month after the murder, the governor of Alabama sent in the National Guard to replace local law enforcement and start raiding gambling halls.

In the crackdown on vice in Phenix City, more than 80 people were convicted or pleaded guilty. A grand jury also indicted the Alabama attorney general, a county solicitor and a chief deputy sheriff in the Patterson murder.

Prosecutors said he was killed to keep him from testifying before a grand jury about the voter fraud.

John Patterson, meanwhile, was tapped to fill his father's spot on the ballot. He became attorney general and the subject of a B-movie titled "The Phenix City Story."

Riding a wave of popularity, he was elected governor in 1958. Patterson, now 82, said there is an important lesson to be learned from Phenix City: Citizens must never tolerate crime, even when it is pumping lots of money into the community.

"It's easy to turn your back and reap some of the benefits from it. But they are not satisfied with a little operation," Patterson said. "They want to get bigger and they will. They want insurance that they won't be bothered, so they proceed to try to buy the local officials."

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Volkswagens: Better than food than for quality

Dear Tom and Ray:

What's happening to the VW brand? I used to think VW cars were made to last forever and were built with incredible German precision and care. Now I find out that all of the small models they sell in the United States, like the Jetta, Fun convertible, are made in Mexico. Not to slam Mexican workers, but I have to believe it will take Mexico — like Japan in the 1950s — a couple of decades to get up to world-class manufacturing standards. On top of that, I have searched for reviews of the Jetta and other recent VW cars by automobile experts. Many of them have mentioned fit and finish problems, and poor construction. So, would I be stupid to pay \$20,000 for a 2004 Jetta when I could replace my 1998 Chevy Malibu with a 2004 model for the same price? The Malibu is bigger, gets about the same gas mileage and comes with more standard features.

But the Jetta is really cool. Please give me a reason to buy one instead of another boring Malibu! — Bill

TOM: Well, the Malibu and Jetta are really different cars, Bill. It's like asking us to compare a soubrette to a fedora. But first let's deal with the factual part of your question.

RAY: Yes, it's true that VW has some quality problems. The Initial Quality of its Puebla, Mexico, plant, according to J.D. Power and Associates, is slightly below the industry average. And when you look at J.D. Power's most meaningful Vehicle Dependability Study, which measures problems three years down the road, VW is way below average. That's certainly troubling.

TOM: You might be right — it might take Mexican plants some time to perfect their build quality. When you look at vehicles that were 3 years old back in 2003, the Mexican-built vehicles do have more problems than average. How many more problems? It varies from plant to plant. Nissan's plant, for instance, is only a hair above the industry aver-

age (hardly worth noting), while one of the Ford truck plants and Volkswagen's Puebla plant are really far behind.

RAY: So, are Mexican workers less capable of building good cars? Not necessarily. It's very hard for us to know whether the problems are attributable to worker error, other problems like poor engineering and design, or cheap parts selection on the manufacturer's part. One analyst at J.D. Power estimates that at least two-thirds — and probably more — of the long-term problems are engineering and design issues. And we'd be inclined to agree with that assessment.

TOM: In any case, VW does need to improve its quality, but that doesn't answer the question of whether you should get one.

RAY: I think you should, Bill. You clearly think the Jetta is cool, sporty and fun to drive.

The new Malibu, while quite a nice car — and a very good deal —

is — more designed for a family. It's supposed to compete directly with the Toyota Camry and offer comfort, size and lots of amenities.

TOM: So if driving fun is your top priority, get the Jetta. Reliability isn't everything, Bill. I mean, my wife will tell you I'm reliable, and look what she got stuck with.

RAY: You're clearly looking for a little more excitement in your life. So you burn a little oil! So the windshield seal leaks and the car-pay-diems? C'mon, Bill. Don't be such a sissy! Car-Pay-Diem! TOM: Yes, even when warranty, it's still a hassle to have to take your car in for repairs. But, it's the price you pay for becoming a hipster, Bill. So, enjoy your Jetta. And don't forget to fill out your J.D. Power questionnaire so we'll know if VW is doing any better than the quality department.

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Click and Click

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

Survey: 1 in 4 credit reports has mistakes

By MARCY GORDON

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — One in four credit reports has errors that are serious enough to disqualify consumers from buying a home, opening a bank account or getting a job — and an overwhelming majority contain mistakes of some kind, according to a survey released Thursday by a consumer group.

Serious errors found in the credit profiles maintained on more than 90 percent of American adults include consumer accounts incorrectly listed as delinquent or in collection or that actually belong to another person, said the report by Public Interest Research Group.

Of the 197 credit reports collected from people in 30 states, 79 percent had some sort of error, while 54 percent included personal identifying information that was misspelled, outdated, belonged to someone else or was otherwise incorrect. Thirty percent contained credit accounts that consumers had closed but that remained listed as open. Nearly 8 percent were missing major credit, loan or mortgage accounts that indicate creditworthiness, PIRG said.

"The big credit bureaus and big business tolerate big mistakes in credit reports," said Ed Mierzwinski, PIRG's consumer program director. "But those mistakes ruin the financial reputations of hardworking Americans."

The three largest credit-reporting agencies — Equifax, Experian and Trans Union — collect information from banks, mortgage companies and other creditors and from public

records related to lawsuits, bankruptcy filings and tax liens.

They sell the consumer reports to credit grantors, as well as landlords, employers, insurance companies and utilities, which increasingly often try to help determine the likelihood that a person will pay obligations.

The people who provided information for the survey were members of PIRG — an arrangement that a spokesman for the credit-reporting industry said unfairly skewed the results.

Also, in conducting the survey, PIRG "unilaterally decided what is a serious error," said Norm Magnuson of the Consumer Data Industry Association.

Spokesmen for Experian and Trans Union didn't immediately return telephone calls seeking comment on the PIRG survey. Equifax spokesmen couldn't immediately be reached.

PIRG and other groups advise consumers to examine their reports from all three credit bureaus at least once a year and before applying for new credit. The reports are available without charge in several states, and will be provided free nationwide by late next year.

PIRG also called on Congress and state legislatures to strengthen consumers' right to seek redress in the courts when a credit bureau or creditor fails to protect personal data or comply with an investigation.

Previous studies by consumer groups also have shown frequent errors and omissions in credit reports. Besides being outdated new credit, a consumer with an inaccurate report can unfairly be charged high interest rates as a "subprime," or potentially risky, borrower.

TUESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES				
52-week	High	Low	Last	Net Chg
10,833.2	10,871.20	10,798.00	10,826.97	+72.90
3,099.07	3,132.87	3,049.00	3,077.83	+12.59
10,353.2	10,355.46	10,349.00	10,355.46	+0.26
6,786.12	6,840.77	6,745.00	6,786.12	+41.11
1,278.81	1,313.73	1,265.00	1,271.71	+7.21
2,153.83	2,196.25	2,135.00	2,196.25	+62.77
1,612.23	1,668.84	1,589.00	1,612.23	+41.11
4,715.98	4,849.00	4,680.00	4,715.98	+32.16
5,466.42	5,527.00	5,399.00	5,466.42	+35.11
11,371.14	11,371.14	11,371.14	11,371.14	+41.26

NYSE

AMEX

NASDAQ

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)				
Name	Vol	Net Chg	High	Low
General	73,875	1.71	+1.71	-1.71
Merck	36,668	1.18	+1.18	-1.18
Centex	29,944	0.25	+0.25	-0.25
United	17,574	2.15	+2.15	-2.15
Pharm	10,072	3.48	+3.48	-3.48
Alcoa	10,044	1.78	+1.78	-1.78
Telecom	10,035	11.24	+11.24	-11.24
Wal-Mart	10,011	1.71	+1.71	-1.71
AMC	14,291	14.57	+14.57	-14.57
Wal-Mart	10,011	1.71	+1.71	-1.71

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS				
Name	Vol	Net Chg	High	Low
Boeing	12	0.29	+0.29	-0.29
Northrop	22	0.17	+0.17	-0.17
Lockheed	22	0.17	+0.17	-0.17
General Electric	22	0.17	+0.17	-0.17
Boeing	22	0.17	+0.17	-0.17
Boeing	22	0.17	+0.17	-0.17
Boeing	22	0.17	+0.17	-0.17
Boeing	22	0.17	+0.17	-0.17
Boeing	22	0.17	+0.17	-0.17
Boeing	22	0.17	+0.17	-0.17

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS				
Name	Vol	Net Chg	High	Low
Fidelity Investor Growth	36.2	+0.44	+0.44	-0.44
Fidelity Investor Growth	36.2	+0.44	+0.44	-0.44
Fidelity Investor Growth	36.2	+0.44	+0.44	-0.44
Fidelity Investor Growth	36.2	+0.44	+0.44	-0.44
Fidelity Investor Growth	36.2	+0.44	+0.44	-0.44
Fidelity Investor Growth	36.2	+0.44	+0.44	-0.44
Fidelity Investor Growth	36.2	+0.44	+0.44	-0.44
Fidelity Investor Growth	36.2	+0.44	+0.44	-0.44
Fidelity Investor Growth	36.2	+0.44	+0.44	-0.44
Fidelity Investor Growth	36.2	+0.44	+0.44	-0.44

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Japanese yen (June 24)	106.00
S. Korean won (June 23)	1,238.00
Euro	\$1.24
British pound	\$1.88
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.377
British pound	\$1.818
Canada (Dollar)	0.7568
Denmark (Krone)	6.1428
Spain (Dollar)	16.6375
Euro	\$1.2101
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.799
Hungary (Forint)	20.709
India (Rupee)	47.56
Israel (Shekel)	4.8484
Italy (Lira)	2,036.26
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2947
Norway (Krone)	6.6764
Philippines (Peso)	54.8124
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2718
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2718
Switzerland (Franc)	1.2508
Thailand (Baht)	49.3737
Turkey (Lira)	1.95372
(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military exchange facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-currency exchange rates in Germany, purchasing British pounds in Germany is prohibited by the local military banking facility. Commercial rates are inter-dealer rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	

PRECIOUS METALS

New York Mercile	
Gold	\$395.00
Silver	\$5.80

INTEREST RATES

New York Merc close	
Gold	\$395.00
Silver	\$5.865

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.00
Discount rate	2.00
Federal funds market rate	1.00
3-month bill	1.31
30-year bond	5.40

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America, Bloomberg.com

Prudence and Sensibility
Money tip of the day

Personal finance basics

The Dallas Morning News

Dallas experts give this personal finance advice:

■ Spend less than you earn:

"If you can do this, your chances are very good that you will succeed," said Lance Alston, a certified financial planner at JWA Financial Group Inc. in Dallas.

■ Avoid excessive debt: "Excessive debt is a sign of poor money management," said Viktor Szucs, a certified financial

planner at Quest Capital Management in Dallas.

■ Zero in on what gives you earning power: "Determine if you're working in a job that exploits your unique talents," said Derrick Kinney, senior financial adviser at American Express Financial Advisors in Arlington, Texas.

■ Do something you love: "Life is too short to be doing something you don't like to do," Szucs says.

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Tell terror victims' stories

I find it extremely sad and disheartening when people like Bill Clinton and Michael Moore occupy the news more than the two men who were murdered by terrorists.

Their scenario is one we don't wish to think about, but one that needs to be considered. The sheer terror and extreme fear they surely felt is unimaginable. They died very scared and very alone at the hands of pure evil. Nick Berg and Paul Johnson were regular men with regular American families, just like you and me. They deserve our thoughts and respect, not our media's political agenda.

We couldn't even give their murders more time than Michael Moore, or Bill Clinton, or the Abu Ghraib "hazing" photos? The media gave the men's murders a cursory mention. Unbelievable. Americans need to know the reality of the horrendous things that terrorists do. They need to physically see the photos and videos of the terrible acts that were perpetrated. It's real and makes a lasting impression on those who see it. Witnessing reality of that magnitude evokes outcry against those who committed the heinous acts.

Is that what the media is trying to prevent? Maybe they don't want American outrage, as it might fuel support for the war campaign.

Kevin McCarthy

Futema Marine Corps Air Station, Okinawa

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DODDS makes reunions tough

I was a student at Lester Middle School on Camp Lester, Okinawa, and have decided it would be nice to get in touch with some of my classmates. But I have found this to be very difficult. While there are several "class reunion" oriented Web sites, there are very few that cater to inter-

national students.

Having moved from locale to locale as Department of Defense Dependents Schools students do not have the home advantage. We cannot simply call an old girlfriend or boyfriend from high school and check in on progress, as many students in stateside public schools do. I am writing this, trying to keep my blinders off. I am aware there are students who lose all contact with their classmates even when educated in one public school system for their entire lives.

In my attempts to find a couple of good friends from middle school, I have run into a brick wall. The Web site for Lester Middle School (a cutting-edge technology-driven school while I was in attendance from 1997 to '99) does not even offer a list of personnel. While I would thoroughly enjoy contacting past classmates, I do not feel that the overseas long-distance tolls warrant such a search. I am aware that not all teachers and staff members have access to the Internet; however, there is not a listing for teachers or office staff. While appreciative of the education provided to me by DODDS, I feel that it is failing its alumni with poor communications.

I would appreciate any information that could lead to my being contacted or contacting a representative of Lester Middle School.

Joshua Lang

Macon, Ga.

Creating a nonsmoking 'nanny state'

BY PAUL CAMPOS

Scripps Howard

KALAMAZOO, Mich. — As a resident of Boulder, Colo., it comes as a bit of shock to discover that one is allowed to smoke in the bars and bowling alleys of this Midwestern town. Boulder, like so many cities and towns across the nation, has made it impossible for smokers to indulge in their habit inside of public buildings of any sort.

As a nonsmoker, I've come to consider smoke-free space something akin to an absolute right. This is, in part, because since I'm almost never exposed to smoking, the smell of cigarette smoke annoys me much more than it used to. This I've become deeply intolerant of something I once treated as a minor irritation.

Our health police no doubt count my transformation into a hypersensitive prig as a triumph of public policy. The less tolerant people are of smoking, the less smoking there will be — that is their logic.

And it's a sound logic, save for the suspicion that producing a nation full of hypersensitive prigs may be a steep price to pay in return for some marginal improvements in public health.

There has always been a strong puritanical strain in American public culture. A

fascinating illustration of the persistence of that strain is provided by Yale Medical School professor David Katz's recent suggestion that "junk food" should be labeled with a scarlet J, to remind we who are about to consume of the depravity of our sinful nature.

A generation ago, a few libertarians joked that things like anti-smoking legislation were the first steps on the road to the serfdom of the "nanny state," in which red meat would be available only by prescription and a Twinkie would be treated as a dangerous weapon.

As is so often the case, a previous generation's morbid humor is rapidly becoming the official position of all right-thinking people.

Let us review briefly the classic rationalizations for handing over our freedom to officious busybodies:

■ The average person is an undereducated victim of advertising who can't be trusted to protect his own best interests. There's a lot of truth to that generalization. Unfortunately, the nanny state's solution to this problem — turning over decision-making responsibilities to overeducated bureaucrats, who will impose their values on the wretched refuse of our teeming shores — is worse than the problem itself.

Why, after all, should the neurons of the American upper class, in the form of

an obsessive-compulsive concern for "health," narrowly defined, be legally projected onto everyone else?

■ Unhealthy behavior produces costs that have to be paid by innocent bystanders. This is the favorite argument of those who recognize the force of libertarian objections to regulation of private life. In theory, it's a potentially powerful argument. In practice, it depends on assertions that are often poorly supported or simply untrue. For example, the claim that secondhand smoke is a significant health hazard is far more dubious than public health officials would have us believe.

As for the billions of dollars in excess medical costs that this or that vice supposedly imposes on the virtuous, anyone who bothers to actually examine the evidence for such assertions will soon discover that these numbers are the products of some tension between educated guesses and flat-out fabrications.

Again, cigarette smoking provides a case in point. Serious economists who have studied the issue can't even agree as to whether smoking produces a net cost or benefit to our health care budget.

■ No one nobody has any idea how to calculate are the costs of intolerance. Nonsmokers might want to think about that as we enjoy our Deviance-Free Zones.

Paul Campos is a law professor at the University of Colorado.

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury



OPINION

Israelis have settled on bypassing extremes

BY YOSSI KLEIN HALEVI

With an unstable government that represents only a minority of parliament and a ruling party battling over withdrawal from Gaza, Israel appears to be hopelessly divided.

In reality, however, Israelis have rarely been more united on a vision of national policy, even if the political system hasn't yet managed to reflect that consensus.

A new centrist majority agrees on two essential insights about the Arab-Israeli conflict. The first is that the occupation is untenable and will ultimately destroy Israel as a democratic state with a Jewish majority. The second is that the root cause of the conflict isn't the Israeli occupation of the territories won in the 1967 Six-Day War but the Arab refusal to accept the legitimacy of Israel in any borders and the Palestinian leadership's unwillingness to control terror.

The Israeli consensus repudiates both the "Greater Israel" camp on the right and the Peace Now camp on the left, which together dominated political discourse for decades. The Greater Israel camp insisted that settlements would bring security and that Israel could forcibly incorporate a hostile Palestinian population while remaining a decent society. The Peace Now camp insisted that territorial concessions would end the conflict and that Israel could arm tens of thousands of terrorists from Yasser Arafat's PLO, put police uniforms on them and turn them into allies against other Palestinian terrorists.

The illusion of a Greater Israel ended with

the first intifada in the late 1980s, when many Israelis became convinced that the Palestinians had a legitimate grievance and that the Arab-Israeli conflict was a struggle between two compelling national narratives. The illusion of a negotiated peace ended with the current intifada, when suicide bombers, encouraged by mainstream Palestinian leaders, convinced Israelis that the Palestinians' real dream isn't the creation of their own state so much as the destruction of the Jewish state.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan for unilateral withdrawal from Gaza and the construction of a fence through the West Bank (which will almost certainly be followed by some form of unilateral withdrawal on the West Bank) emerged from the decision. If we can take Netanyahu's words at face value, he is not interested in Palestinians or make peace with them, mostly because he is not interested in them. Israel's now reason, then the only option is to withdraw to borders that Israel can unilaterally determine.

Thanks to Sharon, who has refashioned himself as the face of this new perspective, Likud has emerged as the party of the hard-line but pragmatic mainstream. Yet the Likud's new position is not the result of Sharon's Gaza withdrawal plan has left many centrists feeling politically homeless.

Ironically, Sharon's policies resonate far more deeply among the general public than they do within his own party. ...

Though Sharon remains committed to withdrawal from Gaza, he lacks an effective political mechanism with which to implement it. Ideally, Sharon would now form a national unity government with the Labor



Party, whose leader, Shimon Peres, is keen on joining Sharon's coalition government, as he did once before. But opposition from right-wing ideologues within the Likud and left-wing ideologues within Labor is blocking formation of a unity government. ...

The Likud should be sobered by the fate of Labor, which has been cut to half the Likud's parliamentary strength. Labor's decline is, in part, a result of refusing to break with the discredited Oslo peace process and to apologize for empowering Arafat, the mainstream Israelis view as one of the greatest mistakes Israel ever inflicted on itself.

Settling in Gaza, according to that same mainstream, is another historic tragedy. If the Likud refuses to uproot the Gaza settlements it may well lose the Israeli center's confidence and find itself, like Labor, defeated by its own discredited past.


Israel's challenge then is to empower the centrist consensus while denying ideologues a veto over its future. The ability of the political system to transcend the left-right divide will determine the fate of Sharon's government and Israel's new sobriety.

Yossi Klein Halevi is an associate fellow of the Shalem Center in Jerusalem and a contributing editor of the New Republic. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Book shows Marines in Iraq fight preconceptions

Why did the United States have such an easy time winning the Iraq war — and is having such a hard time winning the Iraq peace? One answer comes from a new

James Pinkerton



book, which makes a simple point: A killer elite can change a regime, but it can't change a country.

The book, bluntly but aptly titled "Generation Kill: Devil Dogs, Iceman, Captain America, and the New Face of American War," is by Evan Wright, a reporter for *Rolling Stone* maga-

ded with the U.S. Marines on the road north to Baghdad last year. Wright's publication is known for its left-of-center sympathies, but his style owes more to Hunter S. Thompson than to any sort of political correctness.

And that explains why the book is frankly admiring of the Marines — and so revealing as to what they are really like.

Wright's Marines are not the stoic demigods, resplendent in their dress blues, that we see unsheathing their gleaming-steel swords on primetime TV commercials. They are the real, the human-friendly figures heading off the annual Christmase-time "Toys for Tots" campaign.

As one Marine recalls, "We must say 'Kill!' 3,000 times in boot camp. That's why it's easy." An officer briefs his men: "The bad news is, we won't get much sleep tonight. The good news is, we get to kill people." And bring death they do. One Marine officer, who is supposed to feel up after killing people, I don't

Yet these men are not monsters. They give their food to women and children:

they prevent a mentally disturbed officer — disparagingly dubbed “Captain America” and “a retard” by his men — from abusing POWs. They stage a mini-mutiny in order to get a wounded boy — accidentally shot by a Marine at night — medically evacuated to a military field hospital.

But still, these men are killing machines. And if that fact doesn't fit the sanitized, made-for-TV image of American "liberators" — well, these Marines don't care. One reacts indignantly to a letter from an American child who wants the Marines to know that she is praying for peace: "I'm a death-dealing killer. In my free time ... I shamen my knife."

Indeed, much of the book might come as a surprise. Wright observes "a widespread

though usually unvoiced public perception that the military is a refuge for the socio-

But, in fact, he argues, a significant per-

centage of the officers and enlisted men are the children of professionals, even graduates of Ivy League schools.

But all these Marines, no matter what their background, are united by one thing: their alienation from mainstream American society. "The life they have chosen is a complete rejection of the hyped, consumerist American dream as it is dished out in reality TV shows and pop song lyrics. ... Their highest aspiration is self-sacrifice over self-preservation."

So what's the problem here — we won the war, right? The answer to that question, of course, looks a bit more complicated than it did on May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared an end to major combat operations.

For one thing, the Marines are, as they proclaim "the few"

passed many who were still armed and dangerous. This lightning-speed war was in keeping with stateside theories of 21st century military "transformation," but it didn't square with the old-fashioned need to physically occupy the conquered country.

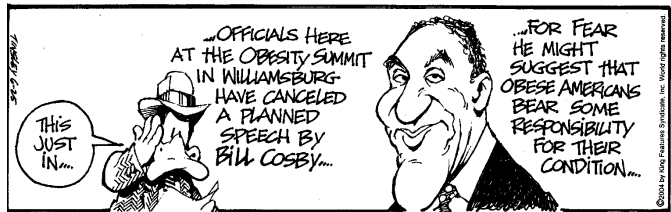
Today, Iraq is still full of weapons of non-mass destruction, notably rocket-propelled grenades. Whether those weapons were in Iraq all along — or have been imported since — the brutal fact is that anti-American guerrillas have a substantial stockpile of deadly armaments. This failure to disarm the Iraqi population must be reckoned as a major failure of the military mission.

That's not the fault of Wright's "devil dogs." As one of them says in the middle of the fighting, "You know, I don't miss anything from home." For these Marines, home was where the heart of darkness was.

James Pinkerton is a columnist for Newsday.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



...OFFICIALS HERE
AT THE OBESITY SUMMIT
IN WILLIAMSBURG
HAVE CANCELED
A PLANNED
SPEECH BY
BILL COSBY...

THIS JUST IN...

Tommaso di Leo

...FOR FEAR
HE MIGHT
SUGGEST THAT
OBESE AMERICANS
BEAR SOME
RESPONSIBILITY
FOR THEIR
CONDITION

©2004 by KJ

Bodies found

AZ TUCSON — The bodies of two illegal immigrants have been found on the Tohono O'odham Nation near the village of Queenswell, authorities said.

U.S. Border Patrol spokesman Charles Griffin said that an immigrant came out of the desert and told a rancher or two people traveling with him needed help and the rancher contacted the Border Patrol.

The victims were two Mexican men in their 20s. Their identities were not immediately available.

That makes 60 deaths the Border Patrol has documented in its Tucson sector since Oct. 1, the start of the federal fiscal year.

Cuba course may be off

IN BLOOMINGTON — New federal regulations on studying in Cuba could cancel a popular Indiana University course in geography and telecommunications.

The Treasury Department prohibits students from traveling to Cuba for courses that last less than 10 weeks.

That would block IU from offering the course scheduled to start next summer. It would have included 12 days of field work near Santa Clara, Bloomington's sister city in central Cuba.

The myth of sunshine

FL FORT LAUDERDALE — The license plates proclaim Florida the Sunshine State, but the National Weather Service says five other states catch more rays.

Arizona is No. 1, followed by California, Nevada, New Mexico and Texas, according to the weather service, which monitors about 265 weather stations nationwide.

We ought to call ourselves the Partly Cloudy State instead of the Sunshine State, Miami-based meteorologist Jim Lushine said.

Florida has more days where between 20 to 70 percent of the sun is blocked by clouds than anywhere else in the continental United States, weather officials said. Weather experts said warm water surrounding the state, high humidity and a long rainy season make for cloudy skies.

But Florida still gets its fare share of sun. Key West sees sun an average 76 percent of its available daylight hours — the most in the state — followed by Miami with 70 percent.

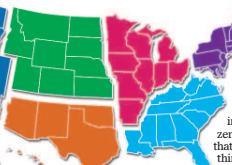
That still trails Yuma, which sees 90 percent sun; Redding, Calif., 88 percent; and Reno, Nev., 85 percent.

Suing over statement

NH BARNSTEAD — The parents of two seventh-grade boys are suing the school district after a teacher allegedly called the boys homosexual lovers.

The suit alleges teacher William Sheehan referred to the boys as homosexual lovers twice in class and told the girlfriend of one of the boys why he thought the boy was gay. Further, the parents allege the school principal, Stephen O'Neill, tried to get the girl to change her story about the conversation with the teacher.

The parents, Stephen and Dawn Call and Nathan and Julie Cheney, say O'Neill and the school superin-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

tendent didn't do anything to the teacher after receiving complaints.

The teacher's lawyer says the school offered to have the teacher apologize in class, but the parents wanted a larger, multiclass assembly for the apology.

Lawyer Steven Sacks called the incident a lapse in judgment. He said Sheehan made one remark "in jest."

Both sides had hoped to settle the dispute out of court, but they couldn't agree on an appropriate apology.

Homeless help readied

FL STOCK ISLAND — Monroe County is ready to open a safe zone for homeless people in the Florida Keys this month. But county officials say the facility on Stock Island next to a jail doesn't have enough space for everyone in need. The new center offers sleeping space for up to 130 people. About 800 of the county's 17,000 homeless stay in nearby Key West.

Ferry searches to resume

WA SEATTLE — Random searches of vehicles boarding Washington state ferries will resume next month as part of a new plan for increased security under orders from the U.S. Coast Guard.

Washington state operates the largest ferry system in the United States and the third largest in the world with 20 terminals and 29 vessels that carry more than 25 million passengers each year.

The searches were heavily criticized and discontinued in 2002 following opposition from the Ameri-

can Civil Liberties Union.

ACLU spokesman Doug Honig said he had not yet seen the new security plan. "The ACLU certainly has concerns any time the government talks about conducting random searches of citizens without reason to think that an individual has done anything wrong," Honig said.

Mainers' migration

ME ORONO — Cutting taxes, improving the job situation and promoting the University of Maine are three ways of keeping more young Mainers from leaving the state, participants in a weekend forum said. Maine had a net loss of more than 6,000 people between 20 and 34 years old between 1995 and 2000, researchers say.

Gov. John Baldacci plans to convene a panel to discuss the suggestions.

Looking for fat facts

AR LITTLE ROCK — Gov. Mike Huckabee said that he wants scientific evidence that vending machines lead to obese children before he fully supports restricting the machines in public schools.

Huckabee suggests restricting vending machine use in a group of schools and comparing the data with schools with unlimited access.

The governor lost 105 pounds in the last year after he received a diagnosis of diabetes.

Fireworks show OK'd

CA HUNTINGTON BEACH — City leaders approved the first beachfront Fourth of July fireworks show in 30 years after organizers raised \$100,000 for the 18-minute extravaganza.

Residents and businesses pressed the City Council to revive the fireworks display.

Lab numbers dropping

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — The number of methamphetamine labs in Oklahoma has dropped 70 percent since state lawmakers approved restrictions on the sale of cold medicines that contain the illegal drug's key ingredient, authorities said.

The dramatic decline, recorded over the past three months, followed passage of legislation this spring that banned store sales of popular medications such as Sudafed and Claritin-D that contain pseudoephedrine, the main ingredient in methamphetamine.

The medications may still be sold in pharmacies, where they must be kept behind the counter and sold only to people who present photo identification and sign for the medicine.

A total of 90 methamphetamine labs were reported to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation in March by law enforcement agencies statewide, authorities said. That figure declined to 64 in April and fell further to 29 in May, officials said.

ORN officials said a further decline in meth labs is possible in the coming months as pseudoephedrine inventories are consumed by producers.



Feed me, Mommy!

Three young robins huddled in a nest open their beaks for food as their mother flies nearby. The nest was built on a newspaper delivery box next to the front door of a house in Fargo, N.D.



Fit for a pitch

Payton Rose Nowlin, 8, left, pitches a ball as from left, Hannah Bloch, 7, Megan Fox, 7, and Zach Witherspoon wait their turn during softball practice at Roosevelt Elementary School in Ames, Iowa.



Brave cat rescuer

Carson Freeman, 11, of Cohutta, Ga., tries to block rushing rain water from pouring into a storm drain and drowning a kitten trapped in the drain pipe in Dalton, Ga. While leaving her swim lesson, Freeman and several friends and family members heard the cat and tried to rescue it. Eventually, members of the Dalton Fire Department arrived and brought the cat out.



Airborne afternoon

Samaria Mayben, 10, flies above the fence while bouncing on her trampoline in Troy, N.Y.



Making his day? Brattleboro Police Department Detective Erik Johnson, right, takes it all in stride as members of the Brattleboro Union High School Class of 2004 douse him with water during the school's Alumni Parade in Brattleboro, Vt.



Silhouetted by fire Firefighters pour water on a five-alarm warehouse fire in St. Louis.



Lawn goes aloft A large tree in North Platte, Neb., remains in a yard after it was toppled by high winds during a severe thunderstorm.



Time with family before leaving Pfc. Keith Graeme enjoys a picnic dinner outside the army in River Falls, Wis., with his wife, Marie, and daughter, Mikayla. Graeme is being deployed with other members of Company D, 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry, to Mississippi for a six-month training program.

Necessary danger

PA PITTSBURGH — Police and state regulators acknowledge that unlicensed taxis, known as jitneys, are dangerous but provide a needed service. The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review newspaper reports that at least five jitney drivers have been killed since 1999.

Nearly half of Pittsburgh's black households have no vehicle, according to the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Social and Urban Research.

County mulls land deal

AZ MESA — A proposed land deal would preserve 1,200 acres of the San Tan Mountains Regional Park and safeguard the Gila River Indian Community from rapid development. Maricopa County would sell the 1,200-acre parcel to the Indian community to curb development southeast of Phoenix. Further details of the proposal will be discussed at a public meeting June 28.

Inmates escape

TN NASHVILLE — Three inmates, escaped from jail by squeezing through an 8-inch gap onto the roof and using bed sheets to descend three stories. Two were later captured.

William Clay Bohanan, 40, Berl Keith McKinnie, 38, and Billy Leo Potts Jr., 39, fled from a special needs cell at the medium- and maximum-security jail in Nashville.

Left behind in the inmates' beds were dummies made by stuffing newspapers into jail-issued orange jumpsuits, authorities said.

McKinnie has a prosthetic foot and Potts a prosthetic leg. He was caught by the U.S. Marshals Service in north Nashville about two miles from the jail.

Bohanan — awaiting trial on homicide and arson related to a 1993 fire in which two children died — was captured about 15 miles east of the jail, officials said. Potts remained at large.

Controversial store burns

MI HAMPTON TOWNSHIP — A furniture store where a group of white supremacists often met was destroyed by fire, authorities said.

The group organized by a Christian Identity leader, James P. Wickstrom, met at the Marquiss Quality Furniture store for about three years.

No one was in the building at the time and no injuries were reported in the fire near Bay City, about 100 miles northwest of Detroit.

Store owners Mary and LeRoy Marquiss said they have been threatened since Wickstrom's meetings were publicized in June 2003 and believe the building was set on fire by someone who opposed the meetings. A meeting was held at the store as recently as Memorial Day.

The Christian Identity movement espouses a doctrine that whites are God's chosen people, teaching racist, sexist, anti-Semitic and homophobic beliefs.

Sentence for seventh DUI

VA NORFOLK — A man was sentenced to 15 years in prison after being convicted of his

seventh drunken-driving charge for hitting a pedestrian with his truck, then fleeing the scene.

Prosecutors said Ralph Shaw Jr., 45, hit Norfolk State University student Jason Ingram said, Ingram was embedded in the windshield and carried for another 30 yards before rolling off.

Ingram, 20, was hospitalized for a week with brain swelling, cuts to his face and a broken eye socket following the October incident.

Circuit Judge Charles Griffith Jr. ordered Shaw to pay \$120,000 in restitution to Ingram and forbid him from ever holding a driver's license again.

Bail for accused wife

VT BRATTLEBORO — A 71-year-old West Townsend woman accused of killing her husband has been released from jail after posting \$100,000 cash bail.

District Court Judge John Wesley ruled that Hope Schreiner, 71, did not pose a significant risk of flight.

Hope Schreiner called 911 on the afternoon of June 2, to report she had found her husband, bloodied and unconscious, in the driveway. Robert Schreiner, 78, was later declared dead at the scene.

Hope Schreiner told police she was mentally exhausted from having to deal with her husband's mental illness and felt that he had taken his frustrations out on her, court records said.

She said she had tried putting sleeping pills in his coffee and when that didn't work she struck him in the head, killing him, records said.

Theft puts nene at risk

HI HILO — The recent theft of two "nene crossing" signs from Hawaii Volcanoes National Park has officials concerned about the safety of a nene family that's been visiting the area since April.

The signs were located at Crater Rim Drive near the park's Kilauea Overlook, where a family of two parents and two goslings has been grazing on 'ohelo and kiawe berries.

"For a nene family, crossing a busy road like Crater Rim Drive is a harrowing experience," said park biologist Kathleen Misajon. "The threat increases their risk of becoming roadkill."

Goslings cannot fly for the first three to four months of life.

During the same time, adult nene are also earthbound for several weeks as they undergo their annual molt, a process that replaces used feathers with new ones.

The nene is Hawaii's state bird and has been listed as an endangered species since 1967. Intentionally harming a nene is against federal and state law.

Budget deal falters

MI LANSING — Efforts to close \$1.55 billion in deficits in the current and upcoming Michigan state budgets have stalled.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm, a Democrat, and Republican legislative leaders failed to reach a deal in several meetings. The Senate has rejected three of Granholm's tax proposals, including:

- a 75-cent-per-pack cigarette tax increase and an increase in the liquor tax.

Stories and photos from wire services

Horoscope

The Libra moon puts focus on who is with whom — it's not so much what you do this weekend but what company is involved that matters.

With Venus still retrograde for the next four days, using past lessons as guidelines for romantic choices is still the best way to go, as much as you'd like to take a chance. Loved ones must prove themselves.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(June 25) You're ready to tackle larger challenges this year! Setting your sights on new surroundings, you'll find inventive ways to move sooner rather than later by making the most of opportunities offered in the next four months. The right strategy is everything. Surrounding yourself with support will be key, and Virgo and Pisces are especially good at this. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 25, 40, 1 and 16.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Remember in the first grade when you planted a seed in a paper cup, and a few weeks later, the first sign of a green stalk started up through the soil? It's the same thing. A project that's taken much mental energy starts coming back.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Your visionary powers are tremendous, but the hard thing is getting everyone else to respond in kind. This afternoon is an exercise in tolerance. If everyone could be as patient as you, the world would be more peaceful.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) You really know how to bring home the bacon. But now is the time to plug energy drains, while you still feel great. Start by acknowledging the knot in your stomach and deciding to communicate instead of holding back.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) It sure feels like your goals outnumber your resources 10 to one. Desires are stoked to such a level that you think you can't possibly keep up and do all you want to do. Take a breath, slow down, and be guided by your higher mind.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Participating in a group endeavor helps

you cover a lot of bases at once. You'll make new connections, fill in some of the blank days of your calendar and also do something meaningful for your community.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Gaze, don't stare into the eyes of love. Dare to let the old cliché about love ring true. Let it go, and watch it come back to you, probably on your terms. Work gets tedious — a sign that you need a treat to look forward to.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Let loose, blow off steam, figure out what's been stopping you, forgive, and forget. An introspective moment is all you need to break down a problem in your mind and solve it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) Work is the best therapy for what ails you. Set a solid deadline to keep your mind from wandering, and work until you're the last one standing. When faced with a choice, rely on your instincts for extraordinary results.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Technical problems could get you up in arms if you let them. Whether it's a case of software rot or the disposal is stuck again, don't let it get to you. Love is the prize for the adventurous spirits who reach out and claim it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Albert Einstein said, "In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity." This is especially true in regards to your family. Loved ones will cry out for your attention in one way or another, and you can provide them with deeply needed care.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You'll strike a bargain — partially because your communication skills are top-notch now and partially because you won't be able to forgive yourself unless you walk away from the deal with what you want. It's called determination.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Your main astrological gift today is courage. While some would stick to what they know, you gravitate to what you don't know and will be an expanded, well-rounded spirit because of this quest. Self-confidence grows.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jillson



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



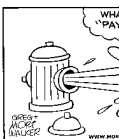
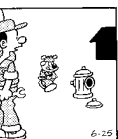
Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red Rover



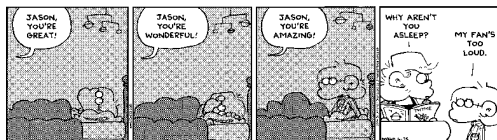
Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fox trot



B.C.



Baby Bites



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



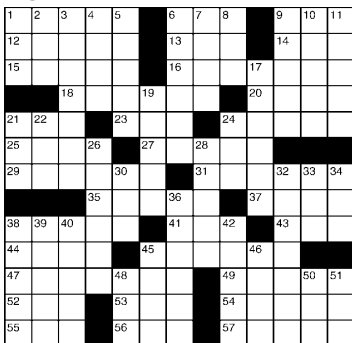
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Reed
2 Instruments
6 Personal question?
9 Horrible
12 Grable poster, e.g.
13 Part of H.R.H.
14 Faraway craft
15 Entanglement
16 Apologies, maybe
18 Did nothing
20 In due course
21 Biz. dig.
23 Red Sox legend
24 Small-minded
25 Frobe of "Goldfinger"
27 Botticelli's "Birth of —"
29 Manage
31 Carelessness?
35 Onward
37 Profligate one
38 Daily trio
41 Gist
43 Bumped into
44 Not pizzicato
45 Lustrous fabric
47 First Chief Justice
49 Nonclerical people
52 Praiseful piece
53 "— Got a Secret"
54 Nimble
55 Checkers' option
56 Sea (fr.)
57 Insomniac's need

Down

- 1 Photo—
2 Cubbyhole
3 For the heck of it
4 Modern-day money
5 Spread out
6 Pant and puff
7 Be in charge of
8 Scrap
9 Too long in the toaster
10 Under way
11 Soft and fluffy
17 "Your Show of Shows" star Sid
19 Show a preference for
21 Leo's studio
22 Actress Arthur
24 One of the latter
26 Cookware coating

- 28 Hebrew prophet
30 Acceptable actions
32 Rival of Payne Stewart
33 Coloration
34 Nevertheless
36 "Casey at the Bat" penner
38 Primary course of study
39 Wear away
40 Had longings
42 Poolroom supply
45 Kevin Kline movie
46 Ride the bounding main
48 Carrey or Croce
50 Article in "Newsweek"
51 "Uh-huh"

Answer to Previous Puzzle



6-25

CRYPTOQUIP

D M H K R R J K J H N Z S

W Z P D W Z I F R F H S T Z F B D I

I B R F W D M M Z S Z Q F J N . D I

F B F H H K R P Y Z F P B H Q T Z ?

Yesterday's Cryptquip: FEATURE FILM COMING OUT ABOUT A MASTER LADDER CLIMBER: "THE LORD OF THE RINGS."

Today's Cryptquip Clue: R equals O

PCS Sale	780
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Pets **820**

Kadena Airbase, Okinawa - Pet Chinchilla for sale! Very low maintenance indoor pet, great for a family! Very large cage & all supplies included, paid \$280 for him & cage off base, will sell for \$115.00 OBO. Must go due to asthma. Call for details & pictures at 633-0878.

Okinawa - Free to good home, Oki mixed dog, 1 1/2 years old, white with brown markings, very cute, good with children, current

OKinawa - FTGH American
Shropshire Terrier and his
best friend a grey tabby kitten.
Both are good with people and
affectionate. We would like to
reconnect them out together. They
are very friendly to each other.
PFS has short notice so we can't
get them back to US. Call
938-8177 or e mail
pfsctr1@yahoo.com. Pictures
available.

OKinawa - Iguana 1 1/2 years old
with cage and heat lamp, about
2 1/2 feet long healthy active
selling for \$500 that just PCS
back to US. No pickup. Call or e mail
933-6801 or e mail
Colomacgirl@hotmail.com.

Sporting Goods 980

Korea • Exercise bike, computerized, like new \$50.00 firm. Call Michael 016-693-6422

Okinawa • 2 1997 Kawasaki 1100 STX 3-seater Jet Ski, side by side trailer, brand new factory OEM covers and hydro turf mats/seats covers. Will throw in 4000 tires, towables and gas cans that fit on trailer. Asking \$10,000 willing to negotiate. Must see. Call 633-2124.

Okinawa • AB Doer II with videotape. Selling for \$30.00. Call 633-9804

Okinawa • Nordic Track Walk-Run, needs work. \$80.00. Call

Okinawa - Perform 385 personal trainer treadmill, barely used, \$250.00 OBO. Call Otis or Michele at 632-3463

Okinawa - Top Flight Tour Golf Club, purchase for \$299, now still in the original box, will sell for \$245.00. Call Greg at 632-6242.

Okinawa - Wanted Treadmill must be in good condition, \$125 or less. Call 632-3013

Yokosuka, Japan - 1994 4-Runner, imported from California, 100,000 miles in Japan. Take back to states on your PCS. Many extras, \$7000 OBO. Call Gary, 909-5334-0503.

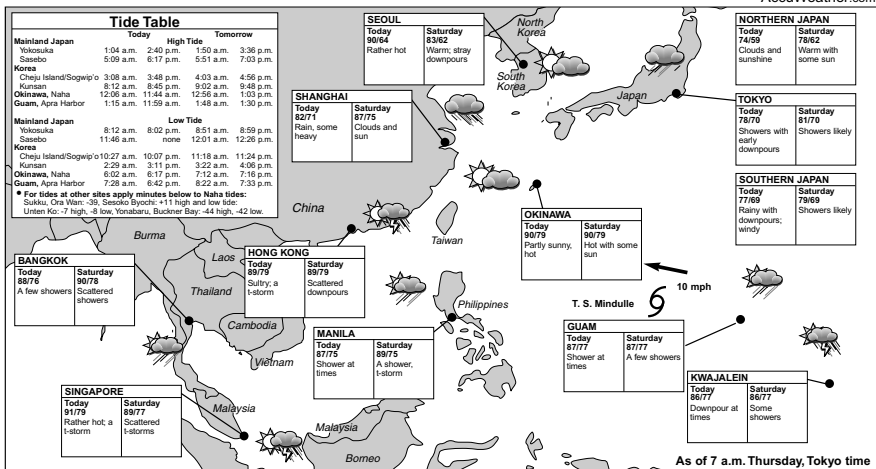
Yokota - Bowflex motivator, equipped with 210-pound capable bows, leg extension attach-

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The Pacific Forecast

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Extended Forecasts

TOKYO
Sunday: Mostly cloudy, high 82, low 72.
Monday: Showers, high 81, low 75.

KADENA
Sunday: Showers, high 88, low 79.
Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 88, low 79.

SEUL
Sunday: Showers, high 83, low 66.
Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 85, low 68.

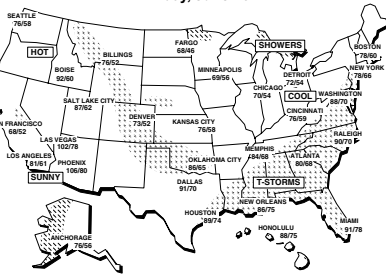
MANILA
Sunday: Showers, high 89, low 75.
Monday: Showers, high 87, low 75.

HAGATNA
Sunday: Showers, high 89, low 77.
Monday: Showers, high 87, low 77.

Wednesday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	83/61	Los Angeles	76/62
Ansanillo	83/59	Little Rock	81/67
Anchorage	72/55	Louisville	82/65
Ashville	80/63	Miami	93/80
Baltimore	80/64	Milwaukee	75/58
Birmingham	82/69	Nashville	80/65
Bismarck	71/42	New York	83/69
Boise	97/65	Omaha	85/63
Boston	84/63	Orlando	95/74
Brownsville	90/75	Philadelphia	84/67
Buffalo	75/58	Phoenix	104/81
Burlington	78/54	Pittsburgh	78/56
Charleston, SC	88/75	Portland, OR	78/59
Charlotte	87/68	Portland, ME	79/65
Cleveland	77/60	Salt Lake City	88/66
Columbus, OH	79/57	St. Louis	85/66
Duluth	61/40	San Antonio	84/72
El Paso	87/64	San Diego	72/65
Hartford	85/57	San Juan	91/76
Helena	86/51	Tampa	95/79
Indianapolis	82/62	Tulsa	88/65
Jacksonville	93/74	Washington	83/68
Kansas City	87/65	Wichita	88/62

Friday, June 25



U.S. Extended Forecast

A front will move into the Northeast Friday and bring the chance for showers and thunderstorms. This front will begin to sag southward Saturday with the chance for thunderstorms in the Southeast. High pressure will build into the Upper Midwest and Great Lakes and provide comfortably cool weather. Showers and thunderstorms will continue to occur along the Gulf Coast with sea-breeze thunderstorms across Florida. A few showers and thunderstorms will erupt in the Rockies, especially in the higher elevations. Across the west, the persistent ridge will begin to break down and allow unsettled, showery weather to return to the Pacific Northwest. Much of California will be in the typical June pattern of morning clouds and fog followed by some afternoon sunshine.

Friday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	88/76	Iwakuni	77/67
Beijing	86/70	Kadena AB	90/79
Camp Casey	88/65	Kansan AB	85/68
Christchurch	50/39	Kwajalein	86/77
Diego Garcia	82/74	Manila	87/75
Hagatna	87/77	Misawa AB	72/62
Hanoi	95/78	Osaka	84/66
Hong Kong	89/77	Perth	67/53
Honolulu	88/75	Pusan	78/66

Friday's World Temperatures

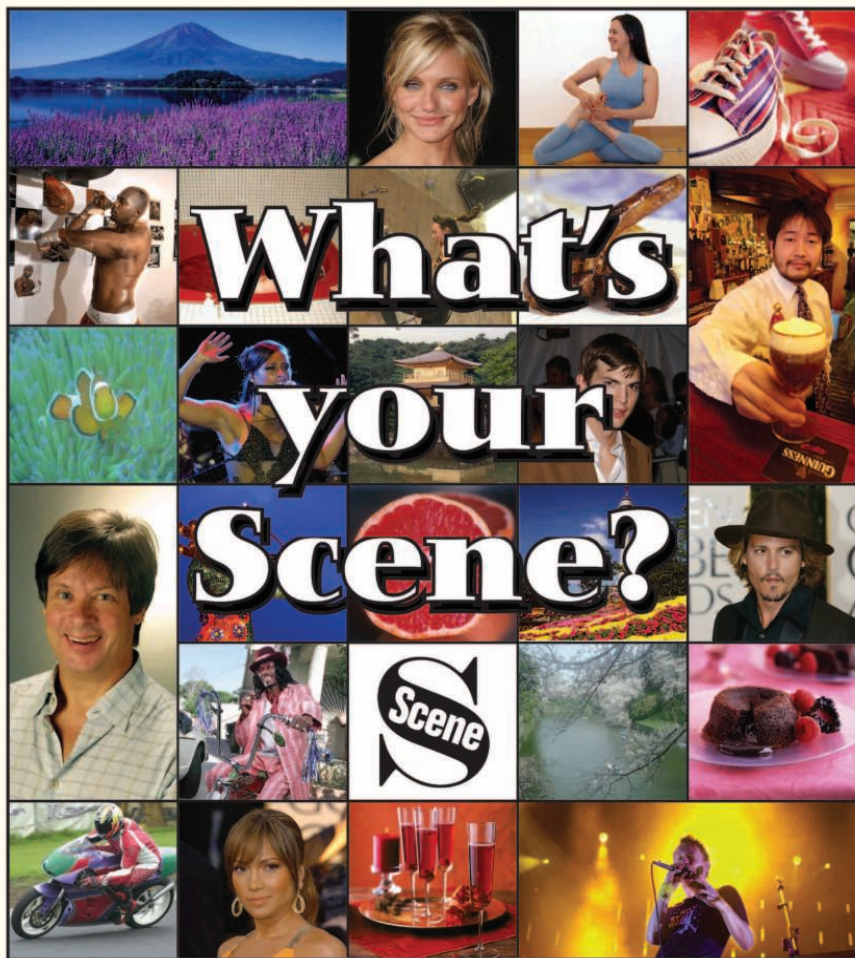
CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Budapest	73/51	Kabul	94/58
Buenos Aires	63/50	Kiev	84/62
Cairo	96/63	New Delhi	104/85
Canbur	82/70	Oslo	56/46
Cape Town	72/49	Paris	65/50
Geneva	71/57	Rio de Janeiro	85/63
Honolulu	81/64	Rome	77/55
Jerusalem	84/63	St. Petersburg	75/54
Johannesburg	68/43	Stockholm	63/43
Moscow	69/54	Warsaw	73/50

Explore the Pacific

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STARS AND STRIPES

**There's a new reason to celebrate
this Fourth of July . . .**



Buy Stripes on Sunday, July 4 to find out!

SCOREBOARD

AFN schedule

Times listed are Japan and Korea Standard Time. Guam is one hour ahead; Seoul and Hong Kong are one hour behind. Schedule subject to change without notice.

Television

AFN-Pacific/AFN-Korea
SAT, June 26, at 11 a.m. — Pro boxing: Felix Cotto vs. Michael Simons for USA cruiserweight title.

AFN-Atlantic

FRI, June 25, at 8 a.m. — Pro baseball: Atlanta vs. Florida.

AFN-France

FRI, June 25, at 8 a.m. — Pro basketball: 2004 NBA Draft.

FRI, June 25, at 11 p.m. — College basketball: 2004 World Series game 13, teams to be determined if necessary.

FRI, June 25, at 11 p.m. — Pro baseball: Pittsburgh vs. Houston.

SAT, June 26, at 8 a.m. — Pro tennis: Wimbledon, Day 5.

SAT, June 26, at 11 a.m. — Auto racing: NASCAR Craftsman Trucks Buckle Up Fireworks 200.

SAT, June 26, at 11:30 a.m. — Pro baseball: San Francisco vs. Los Angeles.

SAT, June 26, at 4 p.m. — Pro baseball: San Diego vs. Seattle.

SAT, June 26, at 8 p.m. — Pro tennis: Wimbledon, Day 5.

Pro basketball

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Team	Pct	GB
Detroit	6	4:00
Charlotte	5	5:00
Indiana	4	6:00
Connecticut	3	7:00
Washington	2	8:00

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Team	Pct	GB
Seattle	8	3:27
Los Angeles	7	4:27
Houston	6	5:27
Minnesota	5	6:27
San Antonio	4	7:27

Sunday's games
Connecticut vs. Washington 5
Charlotte vs. Los Angeles 10
Tuesday's games
Los Angeles vs. New York 7
Washington 7B, Detroit 7C
Houston 6B, Minnesota 6C
Detroit at Charlotte 7D
Minnesota at San Antonio 7E

Tennis

Wimbledon show court schedule
Thursday
At the All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club
Centre Court
Wang Yuezhuo, Taiwan, vs. Andy Roddick (2), United States, for a U.S. match
Kostanic, Croatia, vs. Lleyton Hewitt (7), Australia
Karinem, Czech Republic, vs. Venus Williams (3), United States

Court 1
Guillermo Coria (2), Argentina, vs. Wesley Murray (4), South Africa, for a U.S. match
Guilotti, Italy, vs. David Sanjar, Russia
Capriati (7), United States, vs. Jennifer Fether (1), Switzerland, vs. Jelena Dokic (4), Croatia

Court 2
Lee Childs, Britain, vs. Sjeng Schalken (12), Netherlands
Marie Perce (4), France, vs. Virginia Ruano Pascual, Spain

TANK MCNAMARA

LOSERS INC. SPECIALIZES IN "CONTINGENCY GOODS" LIKE THE 2004 CALIFORNIA CUP CHAMPIONSHIP LOCKER-ROOM CAP—MEMORABLE MADE BEFOREHOP FOR THE CELEBRATION THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN.

WHO DID THEY THINK WOULD WEAR THESE?

KIDS KIDS WILL WEAR ANYTHING

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Goran Ivanisevic, Croatia, vs. Filippo Volandri, Italy
Andre Kaporos, Hungary, vs. Anastasia Myskina (2), Russia
Choi Yoon-yeon, South Korea, and Laura Granville, United States, vs. Svetlana Kuznetsova and Elena Likhovtseva (2), Russia

Soccer

Major League Soccer

Eastern Conference

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GB
Chicago	4	3	4	16	20
Metros	3	3	4	13	20
D.C. United	3	3	4	13	20
Columbus	4	4	3	15	24
New England	4	4	3	15	24

Western Conference

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GB
Kansas City	6	4	3	21	17
Los Angeles	5	3	4	19	17
San Jose	4	3	4	16	20
Colorado	3	3	4	13	20
Portland	3	3	4	13	20

Saturday's games
MetroStars 2, Los Angeles 1
D.C. United 1, Columbus 1
Kansas City 3, New England 1
D.C. United 1, Chicago 1
Dallas 1, Colorado 1

Sunday's games
MetroStars at Los Angeles 2
Colorado at San Jose 26
D.C. United at Dallas 1
Colorado at San Jose 26
MetroStars at New England 1
Kansas City at San Jose 1

Japan baseball

Central League

W **L** **T** **Pts** **GB**

Chunichi	34	20	5	59	12
Yomiuri	31	23	7	55	15
Hanshin	29	23	9	49	21
Yokohama	29	23	9	49	21
Hiroshima	29	23	9	49	21
Yokohama	29	23	9	49	21

Wednesday's games
Chunichi vs. Yomiuri 4
Hanshin vs. Hiroshima 2
Yokohama vs. Yokohama 4

Pacific League

W **L** **T** **Pts** **GB**

Daiichi	25	25	5	53	20
Fujioka	25	25	5	53	20
Nippon Ham	25	25	5	53	20
Osaka	25	25	5	53	20
Yokohama	25	25	5	53	20

Thursday's games
Saitama 1, Orix 9
Nippon Ham 3, Daiichi 0
Osaka 9, Kintetsu 7

College baseball

At Rosenblatt Stadium
Omaha, Neb.
Double Elimination
Friday, June 19
Georgia 3, Arizona 2
Texas 13, Arizona 2

Saturday, June 19
Cal State Fullerton 2, South Carolina 0
Miami 5, LSU 8

Sunday, June 20
Arizona 7, Arkansas 2, Arkansas eliminated
Texas 9, Georgia 3

Monday, June 21
South Carolina 11, Miami 1, Miami eliminated
Cal State Fullerton 5, Miami 1, Miami eliminated
Georgia 3, Arizona 1, Arizona eliminated
South Carolina 15, Miami 11, Miami eliminated

Texas 7, Georgia 6, Georgia eliminated
South Carolina 15, Miami 11, Miami eliminated
South Carolina 15, Miami 11, Miami eliminated

Game 14 — Cal State Fullerton vs. Winner
Game 12, if Cal State Fullerton wins Game 12, Game 14 will be a double elimination game.

Game 15 — Cal State Fullerton vs. Winner
Game 12, if Cal State Fullerton wins Game 12, Game 14 will be a double elimination game.

Game 16 — Cal State Fullerton vs. Winner
Game 12, if Cal State Fullerton wins Game 12, Game 14 will be a double elimination game.

Game 17 — Cal State Fullerton vs. Winner
Game 12, if Cal State Fullerton wins Game 12, Game 14 will be a double elimination game.

Game 18 — Cal State Fullerton vs. Winner
Game 12, if Cal State Fullerton wins Game 12, Game 14 will be a double elimination game.

Game 19 — Cal State Fullerton vs. Winner
Game 12, if Cal State Fullerton wins Game 12, Game 14 will be a double elimination game.

Game 20 — Cal State Fullerton vs. Winner
Game 12, if Cal State Fullerton wins Game 12, Game 14 will be a double elimination game.

Game 21 — Cal State Fullerton vs. Winner
Game 12, if Cal State Fullerton wins Game 12, Game 14 will be a double elimination game.

Game 22 — Cal State Fullerton vs. Winner
Game 12, if Cal State Fullerton wins Game 12, Game 14 will be a double elimination game.

Game 23 — Cal State Fullerton vs. Winner
Game 12, if Cal State Fullerton wins Game 12, Game 14 will be a double elimination game.

Game 24 — Cal State Fullerton vs. Winner
Game 12, if Cal State Fullerton wins Game 12, Game 14 will be a double elimination game.

Game 25 — Cal State Fullerton vs. Winner
Game 12, if Cal State Fullerton wins Game 12, Game 14 will be a double elimination game.

Game 26 — Cal State Fullerton vs. Winner
Game 12, if Cal State Fullerton wins Game 12, Game 14 will be a double elimination game.

Deals

Tuesday's transactions
BASEBALL
American League
ANAHIM ALLEN—Agreed to terms with Los Angeles.

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BALTIMORE ORIOLES—Opted out of free agency.

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McGrady won't be traded before draft

The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Tracy McGrady isn't leaving Orlando any time soon.

Although at least seven teams are serious about acquiring the two-time NBA scoring champion, there won't be a trade before Thursday night's draft.

"We're certainly not going to rush anything," Magic General Manager Jim Weisbrod said Wednesday.

McGrady's seven-year, \$93 million contract has an opt-out clause that can be exercised after next season, and he has said he will leave unless the team dramatically improves. But the Magic have vowed to trade the four-time All-Star rather than let him go without receiving compensation.

That happened to the Magic in 1996, when Shaquille O'Neal signed with the Los Angeles Lakers.

If McGrady is traded, he would be the fourth franchised scoring champion in NBA history to be dealt, and the first since the Buffalo Braves sent Bob McAdoo to the New York Knicks in 1976.

The Magic also own the No. 1 draft pick, and Weisbrod is patiently waiting for offers for that as well.

"These are the two biggest chips he have to use to improve a team that was pretty bad last year," Weisbrod said. "There's a time pressure. We're going about it as methodically as we can."

Orlando is coming off a 21-61 season, its worst in 12 years.

USADA seeking to ban sprinter Collins for life

The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency has notified sprinter Michelle Collins that it will seek a lifetime ban against her for alleged drug violations, her lawyer said Wednesday.

Collins, the 2003 world indoor champion at 200 meters and a potential medalist at this summer's Athens Games, is one of four sprinters who received USADA letters earlier this month informing them that they were being investigated for possible drug use.

Attorneys for the other athletes, including three-time Olympic champion Marion Jones, on evidence from the federal probe of the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative.

Collins now has 10 days to decide whether to accept punishment, or appeal to an arbitration panel or the Swiss-based Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Sports briefs

Okafor among candidates for final spot on U.S. team

With one roster spot remaining to be filled, the U.S. Olympic basketball team is expected to choose size over shooting ability.

Among the final candidates are Emeka Okafor, Brad Miller and The Ratliff, a source told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Carmelo Anthony has accepted an invitation to join the team, but two members of the NBA champion Detroit Pistons — Richard Hamilton and Ben Wallace — have declined, two sources close to USA Basketball say on condition of anonymity.

Tigers SS Guillen agrees to \$14M, \$3-year extension

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Detroit Tigers and shortstop Carlos Guillen agreed Tuesday on a \$14 million, three-year contract extension through 2007.

Guillen, 28, gets \$4 million next season and \$5 million in each of the final two years. He's batting .322 with 47 RBIs in 67 games this season with a career-best seven triples and 10 homers.

Guillen was acquired from Seattle in January for Ramon Santiago and prospect Juan Gonzalez after starting the previous three seasons with the Mariners.

Buccaners WR McCardell skips minicamp; wants raise

TAMPA, Fla. — No longer the No. 2 receiver in Tampa Bay's offense, Keenan McCardell wants to be paid like a No. 1.

The two-time Pro Bowl selection, a no-show for the Buccaneers' voluntary workouts this spring, is sitting out a mandatory three-day minicamp that began Tuesday at the team's training camp.

After catching 84 passes for 1,174 yards last season with a career-high eight receiving touchdowns.

Cardell, 34, has two years left on a four-year contract and is scheduled to earn \$2.5 million in 2004. He wants to be paid closer to the average salary of the NFL's No. 1 receivers, which his agent says was more than \$4.4 million last season.

Giants TE Shockey has surgery on right foot

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Two-time Pro Bowl tight end Jeremy Shockey had surgery on his right foot on Tuesday that will cause him to miss the start of the New York Giants' training camp.

Shockey has a severe bruise on the right foot, which he suffered in the fifth metaphal of his foot by Dr. Robert Anderson in the procedure performed at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, N.C.

The Giants didn't give a timetable for Shockey's recovery but they said he would be ready for the start of the regular season.

Possible NBA Draft first-round selections

A thumbnail look at possible first-round selections in the NBA Draft to be held June 24 in New York:

Rafael Arroyo, c, Brigham Young

6-11, 200, 184 ppg, 183 ppv

A wide body, "Strong and athletic... Not afraid of contact in the paint... Can play with his back to the basket... Runs the floor well... Methodical in his moves... Was a member of the Brazilian national team that participated in the 2002 World Basketball Championships.

Andre Bivins, f, KK Skopje Riga (Latvia)

6-11, 240, 180 ppg, 83 ppg, 13 ppv

Early entry... Good size and strength... Could develop into a great shot blocker... Needs to work on the offensive end... Has a strong work ethic and is a team player... Emphasizes defense and rebounding... Can play the point guard from 10 feet... Needs to improve to Dario Milic.

Eugene Miller, f, Stanford

6-4, 210, 157 ppg, 15 ppv, 14 ppv

Early entry... The Pac-10 Player of the Year... Excellent rebounder... Good defender... Good ball handler and passer... Has a large winged and quick feet... Has drawn comparison to Scottie Pippen... Needs to build some upper body strength.

Luol Deng, f, Duke

6-4, 220, 151 ppg, 6 ppg

Early entry... Has a strong work ethic... A solid defender... Good court vision... Has decent mid-range game... Plays tough in the blocks... A slasher who needs to improve his perimeter game.

Ben Gordon, g, Connecticut

6-3, 200, 185 ppg, 47 ppv, 45 ppv

Early entry... The leading scorer for the NCAA national championship Huskies... A complete guard... Has great range as a shooter... Plays bigger than his size.

Ha Seung-jin, c, Yonsei U. (South Korea)

7-0, 280, 180 ppg, 18 ppv, 18 ppv

Early entry... Has a nice stroke from mid-range and the foul line... Runs the floor well... Has a strong mid-range competitive ball in 2003-04... Could be the first Korean to play in the NBA.

Devin Harris, g, Wisconsin

6-4, 200, 180 ppg, 18 ppv, 18 ppv

Early entry... Can play both guard spots... Has a solid stroke... Good defender... Needs to improve his perimeter game... Has long arms and quickness, makes him a solid defender... Moves well without the ball.

David Harrison, c, Colorado

7-0, 290 ppg, 18 ppv, 18 ppv

Early entry... Good overall... Excellent shot blocker... Has decent shooting touch... Athletic around the basket... Runs the floor well... Has a strong mid-range competitive ball in 2003-04... Could be the first Korean to play in the NBA.

Dwight Howard, f, SW Atlantic Christian Academy (Alabama)

6-11, 240, 180 ppg, 18 ppv, 18 ppv

Early entry... Winner of the 2004 Naismith Award as the nation's best high school player... Can play all three frontcourt positions... Has a solid work ethic... Could be the top pick in the draft.

Kris Humphries, f, Minnesota

6-4, 235, 180 ppg, 18 ppv, 18 ppv

Early entry... Very physical on the offensive end... Gets to the foul line often... Solid rebounder on score inside and out... The 2004 Big Ten Freshman of the Year... A little short for his size... Needs to improve his perimeter game in the low post.

Andre Igouda, f, Arizona

6-4, 207, 151 ppg, 83 ppg, 49 ppv

Early entry... Versatile and athletic... Tremendous passer... Improved his shooting touch... Needs to improve his perimeter game... One of the best defenders in the draft.

Lamar Odom, f, Utah

6-7, 215, 180 ppg, 18 ppv, 18 ppv

Early entry... Solid all-around player... Can play all three frontcourt positions... Needs to improve his perimeter game... Needs to improve his perimeter game... Needs to improve his perimeter game.

Al Jefferson, f, Kentucky (Miss.)

6-7, 215, 180 ppg, 18 ppv, 18 ppv

Early entry... A hard worker on the blocks... Has a nice touch... Needs to improve his perimeter game... Needs to improve his perimeter game... Needs to improve his perimeter game.

Has the size, strength and footwork to build on... Needs to lose a few pounds and play more physical.



Forward Kris Humphries entered the NBA Draft after just one season at Minnesota, where he was selected as the Big Ten Conference's top freshman.

Arthur Johnson, g, Missouri

6-4, 255, 184 ppg, 18 ppv

Passes and rebounding in the frontcourt... Consistent as a scorer, rebounder and defender... Led Missouri in rebounds in each of his four years... Has the school mark with 235 blocked shots... Needs to work on ball handling and shooting.

Shawn Livingston, g, Peoria (Ill.) Central HS

6-7, 175, 180 ppg, 18 ppv, 18 ppv

Early entry... Originally committed to play for Duke... A true point guard... Excellent court vision and ballhandling skills... His long arms make him a defensive threat... Needs to add weight.

Jeremy Moon, f, CSKA Moscow

6-8, 220, 177 ppg, 41 ppv

Fundamentally sound... Solid on-one defense... Has speed and quickness... Solid court vision... Has great court vision... Needs to improve his perimeter game.

Consensus National Player of the Year, J. Smith

6-10, 190, 206 ppg, 53 ppv, 23 ppv

Breaks down the defense and opens space for his shot... Has great court vision... Hitters 11 career in points, assists and steals... His stock dropped a bit after various workouts leading up to the draft.

Eniola Akinola, f-c, Connecticut

6-10, 252, 176 ppg, 115 ppv, 41 ppv

Early entry... Most likely to be selected in the Final Four... Outstanding rebounder and shot blocker... Blocked a shot on a rebound in the Final Four... Needs to improve his perimeter game... Needs to improve his perimeter game.

Tim Lincecum, g, Florida State

6-4, 207, 180 ppg, 45 ppv

Has three-point range and can get them in bunches... A fearless competitor... A strong player who can fight through traffic and battle inside... An overachiever... Sells for the floor well... Could have trouble switching to the point guard position.

Pavel Podolskiy, c, Varese (Italy)

7-0, 260, 226 ppg, 23 ppv

Early entry... Enormous... Has great potential... Has shown a nice shooting touch... A hard worker... Still developing... Has been compared to former NBA player George Mikan... Shows more talent than Mikan.

Peter Johnmann, c, Cretes de Capri (Puerto Rico)

7-1, 275, 205 ppg, 95 ppv, 19 ppv

Early entry... Has shown tremendous improvement in his game in a short time... Born in 1985, he is one of the younger players in the draft... Has ability to score both inside and outside... Runs the floor extremely well and shows no signs of fatigue.

J.R. Smith, g, St. Benedict's Prep, Newark, N.J.

6-4, 220, 150 ppg, 50 ppv

Early entry... Has a 44-inch vertical leap... Has great range on his jumper... Originally committed to play for North Carolina... Sacrifices his body... Does not possess great ball handling skills... More of a catch and shoot guard.

Josh Smith, f, Oak Hill Academy (Mouth of Wilson, Va.)

6-4, 210, 158 ppg, 14 ppv, 14 ppv

Early entry... A great leader... An all-around athlete... Originally committed to play for Duke... Shows improvement first step... Has a great court sense... Needs to work on ball handling and mid-range shooting.

Kirk Snyder, g, Nevada

6-4, 220, 150 ppg, 50 ppv

Early entry... The WAC Player of the Year... A solid all-around player... Can play guard positions... Strong and athletic... A solid defensive player... Has a 3-point range... Needs to improve his perimeter game.

Robert Smith, c, Bakerfield (Calif.) HS

7-0, 245, 180 ppg, 18 ppv, 18 ppv

Early entry... Originally committed to play for Southern Cal... Has great hands and footwork for his age... A shot-blocker and a decent scorer... Needs to add weight and get in better physical condition before battling experienced players of the NBA.

Sebastian Telfair, g, Abraham Lincoln HS, Brooklyn, N.Y.

6-4, 200, 182 ppg, 18 ppv, 18 ppv

Early entry... Originally committed to play for Louisville... Has a nice stroke... A good team player... Needs to improve his perimeter game... Needs to improve his perimeter game.

Lance Jackson, f, C.J. Smith HS (Pa.)

6-7, 215, 180 ppg, 18 ppv, 18 ppv

Early entry... Has a nice stroke... A good team player... Needs to improve his perimeter game... Needs to improve his perimeter game.

Sasha Veljovic, g, Snazler (Italy)

6-4, 200, 182 ppg, 18 ppv, 18 ppv

Early entry... Has been compared to Brent Barry... Possesses a great shot... A good team player... Needs to improve his perimeter game... Needs to improve his perimeter game.

Dwight Howard, f, SW Atlantic Christian Academy (Alabama)

6-11, 240, 180 ppg, 18 ppv, 18 ppv

Early entry... Winner of the 2004 Naismith Award as the nation's best high school player... Can play all three frontcourt positions... Has a solid work ethic... Could be the top pick in the draft.

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Andre Igouda, f, Arizona

6-4, 207, 151 ppg, 83 ppg, 49 ppv

Early entry... Versatile and athletic... Tremendous passer... Improved his shooting touch... Needs to improve his perimeter game... One of the best defenders in the draft.

Lamar Odom, f, Utah

6-7, 215, 180 ppg, 18 ppv, 18 ppv

Early entry... Solid all-around player... Can play all three frontcourt positions... Needs to improve his perimeter game... Needs to improve his perimeter game... Needs to improve his perimeter game.

Al Jefferson, f, Kentucky (Miss.)

6-7, 215, 180 ppg, 18 ppv, 18 ppv

Early entry... A hard worker on the blocks... Has a nice touch... Needs to improve his perimeter game... Needs to improve his perimeter game... Needs to improve his perimeter game.

Okafor: Nelson expected to go early

OKAFOR, FROM BACK PAGE

Despite the health questions and the concerns about his off-court problems, the few players in the draft who will be able to contribute immediately, which is what Okafor seems likely to do.

Most of those players' heights, as measured by the NBA, are significantly lower than the ones listed by their colleges. And the state of college basketball today is such that all of them are surrounded by questions, whether about size, quickness, health, or their overall games.

Igouda was listed in some places at 6-7, but he was measured at 6-5 1/2 by the NBA. However, his performance has reportedly been off the charts during individual workouts with teams, and his stock has risen.

Still, he averaged just 12.9 points per game last season and 2.6 for his two-year college career.

Childress was listed at 6-8 by Stanford, but he was measured by at 6-5 1/2 by the NBA, not, apparently, including his Afro. The knock on Childress — named the Pacific Ten player of the year after averaging 15.7 points per game — had been that he was lacking in athleticism.

But he has had strong individual workouts that have given him confidence.

"It was able to show I am more athletic and stronger than people thought I was," said Childress, who likened his game to Scottie Pippen.

Deng is another player who has benefited from strong workouts. It's possible that he will be selected as high as third by the Chicago Bulls.

NBA teams will have to decide

the point-guard pecking order among Gordon, Nelson and Harris. Gordon is the most explosive of the three, but he played unhappily at shooting guard in college. He was measured at only 6-1 by the NBA, and it's likely that whoever selects him will try to convert him to the point.

"I am looking forward to becoming a full-time NBA point guard," Gordon said. "There are a lot of NBA point guards who score, and I think that could be a big part of my game."

Not everybody is convinced that Gordon's transition to the point will be easy.

"It's very hard to turn a shooting guard into a point," one NBA scout said. "I think somebody like Gordon will have a tough adjustment."

There may be no more intelligent point guard than the 5-11 Nelson.

Of all the point-guard prospects, he probably has the best ability to run an offense. He isn't flashy, but his game is fundamentally sound.

And despite his height, there should be room in the NBA for somebody with his talents.

Harris, who averaged 19.5

points per game, shot 37.3 percent from three-point range, and was named the Big Ten player of the year last season, was measured at 6-1 1/2 by the NBA. It's likely that he will be a top-10 pick.

Jefferson, like Nelson, is a rarity in this draft — a senior who is likely to be a first-round selection. Measured at 6-6, he shot 44 percent from three-point range last season.

A key for both Jackson and Humphries will be whether they can defend adequately. But Humphries, who worked out with the Bulls on Friday, impressed Sixers coach Jim O'Brien.

"Kris is a very talented offensive player," O'Brien said. "He is skilled with around the basketball and shoots with range, and what you have to evaluate is his athleticism."

Snyder has gone up the charts recently. But he was only a 31 percent three-point shooter in his college career and must improve his perimeter game.

Youth will be served in this draft, it's possible. Nelson, Jackson and center Rafael Arroyo of Brigham Young will be the only three college seniors selected in the first round.

Draft: Lots of talent, but LeBron this year

DRAFT, FROM BACK PAGE

Another high schooler who could surface in the first round is Dorell Wright, a 6-7 swingman from Los Angeles who played a year in pro ball in Connecticut last season.

Livingston's size intrigues NBA scouts, but his weight, 180 pounds, is a concern.

"My workouts have been going on, and they had an effect on my decision to turn pro," said Livingston, who was tickled for Duke before opting for the NBA. "Plus, the improvement I'm making on the court, and the fact that I have been able to gain some weight, makes me feel I'm ready."

In a league desperate for perimeter shooting, J.R. Smith provides the concept, will have to improve, but he has a chance to be a quality shooting guard whose range extends beyond 25 feet.

Smith's second-year teammate recently is Josh Smith, who had a workout with the Sixers last week. Coach Jim O'Brien said he was impressed by Smith's perimeter game.

The knock on Smith has been his work habits, something he changes.

"I probably came from somebody in the media," he said. "I don't worry about that and I know I work hard."

Another reason Jefferson are back-to-the-basket players who are limited on offense. Teams like Smith's size, but he will be drafted based on his upside and not his ability to contribute immediately. Jefferson will make his mark with rebounding, and even though he averaged 42 points per game in high school, he will need to develop a more versatile offensive game.

As for Telfair, he is an exceptional passer, and that will be his NBA calling card. He doesn't shoot extremely well and there are questions about his defense, but he knows how to run the game and promises to be the most intriguing pick in the first round.

Any of these players comes with a risk, but there are few of passing over the next Kobe Bryant, Tracy McGrady or Kevin Garnett.

Danny Ainge, the Boston Celtics' manager of basketball operations, said that while teams "don't want to pass up the chance to draft a potential superstar," the best high school players go to college and then never get drafted.

His point was that some players peak during high school and others year beyond. That's why so many NBA players are drafted the dice when the long list of high school players is chosen in this year's first round.

Few veterans, 9 free agents among Bobcats' 10 picks

BY JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Don't get too attached to the 19 players the Charlotte Bobcats picked in the NBA expansion draft. The team expects less than half of them to make it to the first training camp.

The Bobcats stocked their roster with a mix of young players Tuesday night short on name recognition but rich in potential.

Jason Kapono of Cleveland, Gerald Wallace of Sacramento, Tamar Slay of New Jersey and Jamal Sampson all could make the team. Too bad the 500 or so fans who turned out for the selection show had never heard of them.

"What we want is players who need an opportunity to show they can play. Players talk all the time, they want PT — playing time — and they want to know their role. We can guarantee both," general manager and coach Bernie Bickerstaff said.

Nine of the selections are restricted free agents, meaning they automatically become unrestricted free agents and can negotiate with every NBA team except the ones that left them unprotected.

That's had news for the handful of fans in the crowd of 500 who cheered the selection of Marcus Fizer of Chicago.

But Jahidi White of Phoenix and Wallace — the only other players to draw any sort of fan response — should show up in Bobcats orange this fall. The Suns gave Charlotte \$3 million and a future first-round pick to take White. The six-year veteran will have the highest salary of any Bobcats player, \$5.88 million.

Although some players might be reluctant to join an expansion team, Kapono was not.

Kapono, who Bickerstaff picked despite "incentive offers" from Cleveland not to choose him, was thrilled to be coming to Charlotte.

"I am really excited to be joining a new franchise where everybody is going to start on the same level and everyone will have the same chance," he told The Associated Press by telephone from California.

"The only thing I am anxious about is the three-hour



The Bobcats' selection of Marcus Fizer makes the Bulls forward an unrestricted free agent.

plane ride to Charlotte because I can't wait to get there."

White, Fizer, Wallace of Sacramento and Predrag Drobnjak of the Los Angeles Clippers were the most experienced players among the Bobcats' selections from the other 29 NBA franchises.

The Bobcats also selected Utah guard Aleksandar Pavlovic, who will be dealt to Cleveland for a future first-round draft pick.

Pavlovic will give the Cavs a shooter to replace Kapono, who was one of just four guards chosen by the Bobcats.

A big name will be added in Thursday night's NBA Draft when the Bobcats select either Emeka Okafor or high school phenom Dwight Howard.

Charlotte traded the No. 4 pick to the Clippers to move up and make a run at Okafor.

Other selections were Indiana center Primož Brezec, Orlando forward Zaza Pachulia, Boston forward Brandon Hunter and Memphis forward Trent Smith.

"We think this young man is the sleeper of this selection," Bickerstaff said. Smith, who appeared in 20 games for Memphis last season and averaged 2.2 points.

Each NBA team could protect up to eight players, but had to make at least one player available if they didn't have eight to protect.

The restricted free agents selected by the Bobcats included Seattle guard Richie Fraham, Miami center Loren Woods, forward Slay, Nuggets guard Jeff Trepagnier, Washington forward Lomonte Baxter, Golden State guard J.R. Bremer, Fizer, New Orleans guard Maurice Carter and Portland swingman Desmond Feron.

One glaring omission from the expansion draft was a point guard, which Bickerstaff said he'd try to get through free agency.

"We must find a point guard," Bickerstaff said. "We would look for a veteran point guard to mentor the younger guys, but it is the young guys' game. A veteran will be here to give us respect with the referees and professionalism in the locker room."



Texas' Huston Street, right, hugs Curti Thigpen after Texas beat Georgia 7-6 in Omaha, Neb., Wednesday. Street pitched three innings of one-run relief as the Longhorns eliminated the Bulldogs.

Longhorns headed to CWS' final series

BY ERIC OLSON
The Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Carson Kainer doubled in the go-ahead run and Huston Street pitched three innings of one-run relief to help Texas advance to the College World Series final with a 7-6 comeback victory over Georgia on Wednesday.

The Longhorns (58-13) now await South Carolina or Cal State Fullerton in the best-of-three championship series that starts Saturday. Those teams were to meet last Wednesday.

Texas will be playing for its sixth national title and second in three years.

Georgia (45-23) was eliminated after losing to Texas for the second time in the Series.

Street (6-1) prevailed in a matchup against another top reliever, Will Start. Street allowed four hits in three innings, throwing out the final two Georgia batters on comebackers to the mound.

The Longhorns, who trailed 5-0 in the third inning, used a pair of doubles to take the lead in the seventh. Dooley Prince led off with his two-base hit, chasing reliever Matt Woods (2-3).

Startup, the All-Southeastern Conference closer, came on and got pinch hitter J.D. Reininger to ground out before Kainer doubled down the left-field line for his first hit in 10 CWS at-bats.

Georgia jumped on Texas starter Justin Simmons in the third inning, sending 10 batters to the plate and scoring five runs, only one earned.

Taylor Teagarden hit a two-run homer in the Longhorns' three-run third off Georgia starter Johnny Dobbs, who was making his first start since April 21 after serving mostly as a setup man for Startup.

John Stonth's homer off reliever Bo Lanier leading off the fourth gave the Longhorns a 5-4, and Texas went ahead 6-5 in the sixth when David Maroul homered and Johnston hit an RBI single.

Georgia tied it 6-6 against Street, who was the CWS' Most Outstanding Player as a freshman in 2002.

Johnston, the Longhorns' second baseman, lost Josh Morris' fly ball in the sun in short right field to start the seventh. After Morris was bunted over to second, he came home on a Marshall Szabo single in end Street's consecutive scoreless innings streak at 10.

In Tuesday's late game:

South Carolina 15, Miami 11: Bryan Triplett had four hits, and Nick Gardiner and Brendan Winn drove in three runs each as the Gamecocks eliminated the Hurricanes.

Winn, Steven Tallen and Steve Pearce homered, and the Gamecocks scored the most runs against Miami since Florida got 15 in last year's NCAA regional.

Winn scored five times to tie a CWS record.

The Gamecocks, beaten 2-0 by Cal State Fullerton in their CWS opener, defeated LSU 15-4 on Monday and became the first team since LSU in 1991 to score 15 or more runs in consecutive Series games.

"Maybe we were due a little bit," South Carolina coach Ray Tanner said. "In the first game we were goose-egged and have been in our other two trips up here."

"We're capable of throwing up some runs like these other guys, too. It's very rare you can do that back to back teams like LSU and Miami."

South Carolina starter Billy Buckner (7-2) scattered nine hits and struck out 10 in seven innings.

Jon Jay had a three-run homer and a career-high four RBIs, and Roger Tomas went 4-for-5 to lead Miami (50-13), which scored seven runs in the last two innings after falling behind 15-4.

The Hurricanes, who lost to Fullerton on Monday, outhit the Gamecocks 17-16 but couldn't avoid losing consecutive games for the first time this season.

Bobcats expansion list

Player	Pos	Previous Team
x-Lenny Baxter	F	Washington
x-J.R. Bremer	G	Golden State
Primož Brezec	C	Indiana
x-Maurice Carter	G-F	New Orleans
x-Predrag Drobnjak	C	L.A. Clippers
x-Desmond Ferguson	F	Portland
x-Marcus Fizer	F	Chicago
x-Richie Fraham	F	Seattle
Brandon Hunter	F	Boston
x-Alexander Pavlovic	F	Utah
Zaza Pachulia	F	Orlando
x-Loren Woods	F	Chicago
x-Jeff Trepagnier	F	Washington
Theron Smith	F	Memphis
x-Jamal Sampson	F	Denver
x-Gerald Wallace	F	Sacramento
x-Jahidi White	C-F	Phoenix
x-Loren Woods	F	Miami

x-Restricted free agent (becomes unrestricted due to selection).

y-Also received the No. 2 overall pick from L.A. Clippers in exchange for the No. 4 and No. 31 overall picks in 2004 draft.

z-Also received a future first-round pick from Cleveland and cash from Phoenix.

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Safin, wear her slam Wimbledon

Russian says he 'gives up'; third day washed out

BY STEPHEN WILSON

The Associated Press

WIMBLEDON, England — Marat Safin has an aversion to the grass courts at Wimbledon. In fact, he hates them so much he wants no part of the place.

"I give up on Wimbledon," Safin said after losing to fellow Russian Dmitry Tursunov in the first round on Tuesday. "This is definitely not the tournament for me."

Wimbledon is a place for rain, and Wednesday it washed out. Safin was playing completely and prompted organizers to consider playing matches on the middle Sunday for only the third time in tournament history.

After a wait of nearly seven hours, All England Club chief executive Christopher Gorrington announced shortly before 7 p.m. that all play had been called off — the first complete Wimbledon washout since the first Tuesday in 1999.

The last time matches were played on the middle Sunday was 1997, when two days were washed out and only 94 matches were finished after three days. The only other time was in 1991 when only 52 matches were completed after four days.

Tournament officials postponed 29 second-round matches and announced that play would start an hour earlier Thursday, at 11 a.m. on outside courts and noon on Centre and Court 1 — weather permitting.

Men's doubles matches, meanwhile, will be reduced to best-of-three sets until the quarterfinals. That also happened in 1991, '97 and '98.

Only 83 of the scheduled 128 singles matches were completed on the opening two days, the fewest on the first Monday and Tuesday since 1991.

"Officially, we're 45 matches behind and, if we were thinking of playing on Sunday, that would not be until Friday," tournament referee Alan Mills said. "Obviously, we would like not to play on the middle Sunday."



Second-seeded Andy Roddick and No. 3 Guillermo Coria were among those hoping to resume matches that had been suspended Tuesday evening.

Roddick was up 4-2 against Taiwan's Wang Yeu-tzuo on Centre Court. Coria, the French Open runner-up, was two points away from victory against Wesley Moodie when play was stopped at 6-4, 6-7 (3), 6-3, 6-7 (3), 5-3.

"I expect this when I come here," said 2001 champion Goran Ivanisevic, who is retiring after the tournament. "We had great weather the last two weeks. I knew something bad has to come."

Ivanisevic's second-round match against Filippo Volandri was among those called off Wednesday.

"It's tough to know what to do," he said. "If you stay here, you go crazy. If you go home, you also go crazy. ... That's a part of Wimbledon. Wimbledon without rain is not Wimbledon."

Safin completed his match — with former Russian President Boris Yeltsin, one of Safin's biggest fans, watching — on Tuesday. Yeltsin left after Safin lost four

straight games to drop the second set.

Things only got worse for Safin. He smashed his racket, swore at the umpire and put in little effort near the end of the 4-6, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (1) defeat.

"After awhile, I just get bored," he said. "I lost completely motivation, and I give up."

It was a startling admission from a player who is no stranger to controversy. At the French Open last month, Safin pulled down his shorts during a second-round victory over Felix Mantilla.

Safin, 24, is considered one of the most talented and physically imposing players in the game. He won the U.S. Open and reached No. 1 in the rankings in 2000. He got to the Australian Open final twice (2002 and 2004) and the French Open semis in 2002.

But Wimbledon has always been Safin's least favorite Grand Slam.

He reached the quarterfinals in 2001, but failed to advance past the second round in three other appearances.

Tuesday's loss marked the first time he's been knocked out in the first round of a Grand Slam event since the 2000 Australian Open.

While the swaggering 6-foot-4 Safin would seem to have the physique and booming shots to win at Wimbledon, he insists he just can't deal with the footwork and low bounces.

"I don't feel like I'm moving," he said. "I cannot move there. Every time, I don't know how it's going to bounce. It's like a real nightmare for me."



Marat Safin throws his racket after losing a point to Dmitry Tursunov during their first-round match at Wimbledon on Tuesday.

Part of the adjustment to grass is mental. "You have to be really focused in your mind, but it's not my territory," Safin said.

Safin didn't say he won't be back at Wimbledon, only that from now on he won't bother showing up early to practice on grass or play in warmup events. Instead, he'll just arrive a couple of days before the tournament.

"I hate this," he said. "I'll just practice a couple of days, then I play. I'm not going to waste any time on that knowing I will not play well."

Yeltsin's presence didn't help some other top Russian players, either.

Also upset in the first round was sixth-seeded Elena Dementieva, who lost to French Open finalist, who lost 6-4, 1-6, 6-4 to Sandra Kleinova of the Czech Republic. No. 8 Svetlana Kuznetsova was ousted by France's Virginie Razzano in three sets.

DT Haynesworth has turned things around

BY TERESA M. WALKER

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Albert Haynesworth, best known as Tennessee's problem child since being drafted in 2002, has become a model citizen for the Titans this offseason.

Haynesworth hasn't missed a workout since May 4, when he was the only veteran absent after an excuse, prompting Eddie George to call it a slap in the face and provoking rare criticism from NFL co-MVP Steve McNair.

The Titans wrap up their final minicamp sessions Thursday, and Kevin Carter, who will start beside Haynesworth as he shifts from end to tackle, said the former University of Tennessee star has displayed his dedication.

"He has been here every day training hard. I've been here every day, and he's been here every day. He's working his butt off," Carter said.

"The proof is in the pudding. You put your money where your mouth is. I mean actions speak louder than words. All the clichés, they all fit right now, because he's doing what he's supposed to be doing."

That's a complete turnaround from a tumultuous spring in which coach Jeff Fisher made the very rare move to openly criticize Haynesworth. The coach, who suspended Haynesworth for the Titans' final game of 2003, was unhappy the tackle was the

only player not taking part in the team's voluntary offseason conditioning program.

Haynesworth had promised to work out on his own in Knoxville, where his wife is pregnant, while attending all 14 of the team's minicamp sessions.

After the criticism from the Titans' top two stars, Haynesworth has shown up regularly. Fisher said the Titans have seen "significant" changes in the tackle.

"He's done a great job in the weight room, on the conditioning field. His weight is way down. He's almost at his reporting weight [for training camp]," Fisher said.

Haynesworth said Tuesday he has gotten used to people criticizing him, but he thinks the latest flap was blown out of context.

"It seems like every year they're going to say something about me," Haynesworth said. "It doesn't really bother me at all. People can think what they want to think. I know what I'm doing. I know what I expect out of myself at the end of the year."

Haynesworth missed three games last season because of a dislocated elbow, and he ranked fifth among Titans defensive line-



Defensive tackle Albert Haynesworth, best known as the Titans' problem child since being drafted in 2002, has become a model citizen.

men with 2½ sacks. He had the Titans' lone sack of the postseason.

Defensive coordinator Jim Schwartz said Haynesworth, who turned 23 last week, is starting to

answer the doubters.

"We're starting to see him take some steps. You know the physical talent he has on the field," Schwartz said.

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U.S. Forces Japan American Football League

Regular season schedule

Saturday, June 26
Atsugi at Misawa, 2 p.m.
Yokosuka at Yokota, 6 p.m.

Saturday, July 10
Atsugi at Yokosuka, 4 p.m.
Misawa at Yokota, 6 p.m.

Saturday, July 17
Yokosuka at Misawa, 2 p.m.
Yokota at Atsugi, 4 p.m.

Saturday, July 24
Bye week: no games scheduled

Saturday, July 31
Misawa at Yokosuka, 4 p.m.
Atsugi at Yokota, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 7
Yokota at Misawa, 2 p.m.
Yokosuka at Atsugi, 4 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 14
Misawa at Atsugi, 4 p.m.
Yokota at Yokosuka, 4 p.m.

End regular season.
Postseason
Saturday, Aug. 21
Semifinals

Fourth-place team at first-place team
Third-place team at second-place team

Sunday, Sept. 4
Championship
Tori Bowl

Semifinal winners, 4 p.m.

Team capsules

Yokosuka Seahawks

Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan
Coach: Isaac Lee, second season as head coach, third with team.

2003 season: 6-1, won fourth straight, regular-season and league championship.

Key veterans/players to watch: Thomas Curry, DE; Stephen Fox, LB; Tim Graves, CB; Will Hall, QB; Darious Johnson, WR; James McCullough, RB; D.C. Preston, RB; Luke Raimo, DL; Aaron Stegall, RB.

Outlook: Still championship caliber, but depth and inexperience might knock the Seahawks down a notch this season. Losing LB Mike Favon (retired), T.A.J. Johnson (retired) and RB Kevin Hill (transferred to Yokota) doesn't help. Many players will head to sea when aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk battle group pulls out of port next month; they won't return until the playoffs. Offensive line in particular, a staple of Yokosuka's four straight title seasons, will lack experience this season. But QB Will Hall is backed by a veteran backfield and solid receiver corps. Seahawks will add on offense to make it "one for the team."

Yokota Raiders

Yokota Air Base, Japan
Coach: Ricardo Young, first full season.

2003 season: 2-6, sixth place, failed to qualify for playoffs.

Key veterans/players to watch: Bruce Turner, QB; Mike Jake Dowdell, QB; Ron Thompson, LB; Dre Thomas, LB; John Hill, RB; Mark Lewis, RB; Martie Wilson, LB.

Outlook: First time since 1997 season that Raiders take field without either former player/coaches Joe Kowell or Greg Powell in lineup. Some decent size remains, though depth and experience are in issue. Turner, in his first full season, shows strong promise at skills positions. Hill, who transferred from Yokosuka, is a valuable addition. Dowdell serves dual purpose as QB and offensive assistant coach on field. Need to gear up running game to augment an at-times-dangerous passing attack.

Atsugi White Dolphins
Atsugi Naval Air Facility, Japan
Coach: Shabazz, first season as head coach, fourth with team.

2003 season: 3-4, third place, failed to qualify for playoffs.

Key veterans/players to watch: Joshua Brown, QB/TE; P.J. Brown, CB; J.D. Gramling, LB; Ryan Romane, WR; Jason Williams, WR/CB/KR.

Outlook: Completely revamped coaching staff, with Shabazz inheriting White Dolphins team from departed Gus Gessime and DeForest Pittman that's typically thin in numbers and small physically. Already injuries are a concern. Williams, the team's best athlete, is battling a pulled hamstring.

Misawa Marauders

Misawa Air Base, Japan
Coach: Kenji Hemphill, second season as head coach, fifth with team.

2003 season: 6-1, third place, qualified for playoffs, lost to Kadana Dragons in semifinals, lost to Raiders in final, Okinawa.

Key veterans/players to watch: Woody Carter, DE; Andre Rice, RB; James Coleman, QB; Mike McCullough, TE/CB; Kenji Blackwell, DE/TE; Shelton Gordon, LB; Bradley Trench, LB; Jason Hollingsworth, LB; Garrett Smith, LB.

Outlook: Most experienced and skilled team that Hemphill has had in charge at Misawa. Blackwell moves to line from FS and has nose for the quarterback as the QB goes to the line. Coleman moved from CB to tailback and has explosive speed. Need to settle on quarterback. Depth may be issue, especially for road games.

Marauders making their move

Position switches improve Misawa's chances in league

By DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Two players from the defensive backfield are switching positions, and the moves might turn the Misawa Marauders into U.S. Forces Japan-American Football League contenders.

James Coleman moved from cornerback to tailback to take advantage of his speed, and he scored all three of Misawa's touchdowns in Saturday's preseason jamboree.

"He can do it," Misawa coach John Hemphill said. "He's a beast at defensive end, and if you get him into the open... he's going downtown."

Kenji Blackwell, a free safety last season, has bulked up and shifted to defensive end and tight end, and he recorded three sacks on Saturday.

"He hit the weights hard during the offseason, put on some upper body strength," Hemphill said. "He's a beast at defensive end."

The moves might give the Marauders, who began play in 1997, their best shot at their first league title.

The league's other three teams certainly took notice at the jamboree, where the Marauders beat each of them by 7-0 scores in the series of one-quarter skirmishes.

"They took good. They had a lot of continuity," said Yokosuka Seahawks coach Isaac Lee, who even told Hemphill he liked the Marauders' chances this season.

When the season starts Saturday, the Marauders, along with the Yokota Raiders and Atsugi White Dolphins, will try to knock Yokosuka off the championship pedestal it's occupied since the 2000 campaign.

The league, down to four teams after the departure of the three from Okinawa, will play a double round-robin schedule followed by a postseason for which all four teams qualify.

While Misawa got everyone's attention at the jamboree, Lee envisions a "tossup" this season, particularly since he doesn't think his team is as dominant as it has been.

"We have a long way to go," Lee said. "I don't see us being as strong as the last two years. It's going to be a good wide-open league."

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DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Misawa Marauders running back James Coleman eludes Yokota Raiders defender Rio Thompson during Saturday's U.S. Forces Japan-American Football League preseason jamboree.

New boss sees clearer sailing for USEJ-AFL

By DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — On the surface, it would seem Kyle Rhodus assumed control of a sinking ship when he agreed to be commissioner of the U.S. Forces Japan-American Football League.

The three members of the seven-team league from Okinawa left during the offseason, leaving just four.

In the past four years, 32 games either were postponed, forfeited or canceled, including the 2001 and 2003 league championship games.

Given the problems the league has faced since 2000, "if somebody didn't step up and take the reins, it would have folded, and that, to me, was unacceptable," said Rhodus, who became the league's third commissioner in 15



Rhodus

months after Joseph Howell resigned after last season, his first on the job. Rhodus, 30, who came to the Pacific four years ago as athletic director at Sasebo Naval Base before taking that same job at Yokosuka in 2002, was selected as commissioner during the league's winter meeting in January.

By day, he handles the Fleet Activities Yokosuka athletic department's nearly \$30 million budget. As part-time commissioner, he oversees the league's remaining four teams: Misawa, Yokota, Atsugi and Yokosuka.

Not having the Okinawa teams,

Rhodus said, makes it easier to coordinate scheduling and resolve conflicts "because everybody is so close.... All the coaches are dedicated to having a good season, and not having games called off for reasons beyond their control."

Rhodus quickly moved to re-write rules about game postponements and cancellations he felt were too lenient and gave teams too many windows to call off a trip.

Now, if a team must back out of a game because of duty or transportation problems, it must reschedule just once. A second such incident will result in an automatic forfeit.

"Convincing the coaches we can make this happen regardless of issues" was a key to selling the stricter rules, Rhodus said. The season also contains two "bye weeks" aimed at making resched-

uling easier. "If they have to play with 15 players, it has to happen, and I think the coaches are on board with that," he added. "If a game gets called off, we'll know when it's going to be played next. More certainty. It won't stretch into a five-month period."

"We have to go with what we've got," said Seahawks second-year coach Isaac Lee. "Everybody in the league is going to have issues, different organizations have different missions. But we have to play. We have to go with this."

Rhodus said the new season, if maintained, should benefit Atsugi and Misawa, which don't receive the same command backing as fully-funded Yokosuka and Yokota. "I hope the effort of this league this season brings some attention and support to those two teams," Rhodus said.

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Major League Baseball scoreboard

American League

	East Division			
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	44	24	.647	—
Boston	40	29	.580	4½
Tampa Bay	33	34	.493	10½
Toronto	30	40	.429	15
Baltimore	28	38	.424	15
	Central Division			
Minnesota	38	31	.551	—
Chicago	36	31	.537	1
Cleveland	34	35	.493	4
Detroit	31	38	.449	7

Kansas City	27	40	.403	10
West Division				
Texas	38	29	.567	—
Anaheim	39	31	.557	½
Oakland	38	31	.551	1
Seattle	29	39	.426	9½
Tuesday's games				
Boston 9, Minnesota 2				
Tampa Bay 5, Toronto 1				
N.Y. Yankees 10, Baltimore 4				
Texas 10, Seattle 2				

Chicago White Sox 11, Cleveland 9, 10 innings
Kansas City 8, Detroit 1
Anaheim 6, Oakland 1
Wednesday's games
Minnesota at Boston
N.Y. Yankees at Baltimore
Tampa Bay at Toronto
Seattle at Texas

Thursday's games
Tampa Bay (Halama 3-1) at Toronto (Lilly 6-3)
Minnesota (Radke 4-3) at Boston (Wakefield 4-5)
Seattle (Pineiro 3-8) at Texas (Benoit 2-2)
Cleveland (Westbrook 6-3) at Chicago

White Sox (Rauch 0-1)
Detroit (Robertson 5-3) at Kansas City
(George 1-0)
Oakland (Mulder 8-2) at Anaheim (Ra. Ortiz
3-5)
N.Y. Yankees (Vazquez 7-5) at Baltimore
(Ponson 3-9)
Friday's interleague games
Chicago Cubs at Chicago White Sox

Montreal at Toronto
 Philadelphia at Boston
 N.Y. Mets at N.Y. Yankees
 Arizona at Detroit
 Colorado at Cleveland
 Florida at Tampa Bay
 Atlanta at Baltimore
 Houston at Texas
 Milwaukee at Minnesota
 St. Louis at Kansas City

Cubs closing quickly on Central rivals

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The Chicago Cubs are closing the fast for the rest of the NL Central to keep up.

At one point early this month, they were in fourth place. Now the Cubs could leave St. Louis as the division leader. They got within a game of the Cardinals on Tuesday night when Aramis Ramirez hit a two-run double off closer Jason Istringhausen with two outs in the eighth inning to help Chicago to a 5-4 win.

It was the Cubs' ninth win in 10 games, outpacing even the Cardinals, who have won 15 of 21, but lost two straight.

Istringhausen (3-2) was trying for his sixth multi-inning save of the season. He relieved Jason Marquis after the starter allowed a single to Mark Grudzielanek and he was sacrificed over. After a retiring Moises Alou, Istringhausen pitched carefully to Sammy Sosa, who drew a walk on a full count, before Ramirez doubled.

Istringhausen didn't consider Sosa's at-bat pivotal.

"I'm not going to let that man beat me," Istringhausen said. "No disrespect to Aramis. Then again, if I throw a strike to him and he beats me, then everybody asks me why I threw to him. It's a no-win situation."

"He's an RBI guy," Cubs manager Dusty Baker said of Ramirez. "He's hit two 100-RBI years, and he's getting better."

Cardinals manager Tony La Russa defended going to Istringhausen for what would have been a five-out save because the Cubs' 3-4-5 hitters were coming up and Istringhausen had two days off since a four-out save on Saturday.

"I was trying to win the game," La Russa said. "He's fresh, it's the heart of the lineup, Izzy's the guy I wanted out there."

Kyle Farnsworth (3-3) pitched out of a jam in the bottom, and retired the order of the inning, and retired the order of the inning in the eighth. LaTroy Hawkins finished for his ninth save in 12 chances.

If Chicago can take over first place at Busch Stadium, it will be an accomplishment: It's won just eight times there in 35 games since 2000.

Mets 7, Reds 4: Mike Piazza hit a go-ahead home run in the fifth inning and the Mets won their season-high fifth straight.

In his first game since hitting his 500th home run, Ken Griffey Jr. went 1-for-5 with a single. He was mostly cheered by the Shea Stadium crowd of 19,301.

John Franco (1-3) pitched two perfect innings in relief of Matt Capps to earn his first win since Sept. 17, 2001 and help the Mets win for the seventh time in eight games to move above .500 at 35-34.

Giants 11, Dodgers 5: Edgaro Alfonso drove in a career-high six runs and San Francisco moved a half-game ahead of visit-



Sammy Sosa scores the Cubs' game-winning run on an eighth-inning double by Aramis Ramirez as Cardinals catcher Mike Matheny can't handle the throw. Sosa had walked on a full count to bring up Ramirez.

ing Los Angeles in the NL West.

Deivi Cruz went 5-for-5 with three doubles and two RBIs for the Giants, who have won 13 of their past 14 home games to take the division lead for the first time since April 13. They trailed by eight games in May.

Marlins 4, Braves 3: Carl Pavano (8-2) held visiting Atlanta to three runs and nine hits in seven innings, winning his fourth consecutive start and fifth in six outings.

Pinch-hitter Lenny Harris walked and scored on a wild pitch in the seventh inning, helping Florida stop a three-game losing streak.

Atlanta has lost five of six and nine of 13.

Expos 5, Phillies 2: At Montreal, Livan Hernandez (4-7) doubled twice and got his first win in five weeks.

Brad Wilkerson, who fell a triple short of his second cycle in two seasons, and Brian Schneider each had three hits for Montreal, which won its third in a row following a seven-game losing streak.

Brewers 6, Rockies 2: Larry Walker made his return for the visiting Rockies, but Colorado's Javier Lopez (0-2) broke a seventh-inning tie when he hit consecutive batters with the bases loaded.

Walker doubled in his season debut after missing the Rockies' first 68 games with a strained left groin.

Keith Ginter added a two-run double in the five-run seventh, giving Doug Davis (7-5) his third straight victory.

Astros 5, Pirates 4: Roy Oswalt (5-6) pitched eight solid innings to outduel Kris Benson (5-7).

Morgan Ensberg hit a tiebreaking triple in the seventh and the Astros came from behind for the second consecutive night, dropping the Pirates to 1-15 in their last 16 games in Houston.

Oswalt allowed three runs, nine hits and did not walk a batter, sending Pittsburgh to its 10th straight road loss and fifth in a row overall.

Padres 2, Diamondbacks 1 (10): Khalil Greene scored from second when Arizona's Scott Hairston botched a potential double-play ball with one out in the bottom of the 10th inning.

With Greene on second and Sean Burroughs at first, Hairston tried to glove Mark Loretta's chopper to second and tag Burroughs to start a double play. But the ball popped loose and rolled into shallow left field, allowing Greene to score.

"The Padres started the winning rally when Greene was hit by a pitch from Mike Kopechne (2-2) leading off the inning.



Red Sox Manny Ramirez (24) and Trot Nixon (7) greet Nomar Garciaparra, right, after his grand slam against the Twins in the seventh inning.

Garciaparra, A-Rod homer in victories

The Associated Press

Nomar Garciaparra and Alex Rodriguez carried their teams to victory. The Tampa Bay Devil Rays keep winning without big stars.

Garciaparra hit a grand slam Tuesday night for his first home run of the season, sending the Boston Red Sox to a 9-2 victory over the Minnesota Twins at Fenway Park.

"It was nice," said Garciaparra, who missed the first 57 games with right Achilles' tendinitis. "We never counted on just one guy. We expect to pick each other up, always."

Rodriguez did most of the damage for the New York Yankees, who beat the Baltimore Orioles 10-4 at Camden Yards. He passed Joe DiMaggio on the career home run list, connecting twice and driving in five runs.

"Alex was dynamite," Yankees manager Joe Torre said.

And the same could be said of the surprising Devil Rays, who extended their franchise-record winning streak to 12 games by beating the Toronto Blue Jays 5-1 at SkyDome behind homers from Julio Lugo and Carl Crawford.

"At the beginning of the season it was terrible. We were just Tampa Bay," Lugo said. "Now everybody is calling us the stingy Rays."

Tampa Bay starter Chad Gaudin was lifted after walking four in the first inning, but four relievers went the rest of the way for a three-hitter.

The Devil Rays (33-34) went 3-19 from April 25 to May 19, but they're a major league-best 23-6 in their past 29 games. They have the longest winning streak in the majors since Arizona won 12 straight last season.

At Baltimore, Mike Mussina (8-4) overcame a rocky start to win his seventh straight decision. In his first game since leaving a June 11 outing with a groin injury, he lasted just five innings.

"I was trying to make sure that I didn't do anything foolish," Mussina said. "But as it went on, I got a little more loose and a little

AL Roundup

more comfortable. I could tell it was getting a little tired when we decided that was enough."

Rodriguez had his 35th multi-homer game. He hit a three-run shot off Matt Riley (1-3) in the first inning and a two-run drive against Rodrigo Lopez in the seventh to help the Yankees improve to 7-0 against Baltimore this season.

At Boston, Garciaparra's fifth career slam backed Curt Schilling, 5-4, in his past six starts. David Ortiz and Manny Ramirez also homered for the Red Sox.

"It's like pick your poison," said Johnny Damon, who doubled twice. "We have some of the best 3-4-5 hitters in the league."

Schilling (9-4) is 6-0 at Fenway Park, the first pitcher in the majors to win his first six home decisions this season. He allowed one run, four hits and no walks in seven innings with five strikeouts.

Rangers 10, Mariners 2: Ryan Drese (4-4) pitched four-hit ball for eight innings and Rod Barajas homered in his third straight game.

The Rangers won their fourth straight game and are in first in the AL West at the latest point in a season since 1999 — when they won their last division title. Visiting Seattle had won four straight and 10 of 14, but is 9½ games back in last place.

Royals 8, Tigers 1: At Kansas City, Mo., Carlos Beltran hit a two-run homer in the first inning and Mike Sweeney added a three-run shot in the eighth, sending Detroit to its fourth straight loss.

White Sox 11, Indians 9 (10): Jose Valentin drove in five runs, including a two-run homer in the eighth inning and the Angels beat visiting Oakland, which has lost seven of eight after an eight-game winning streak.

SPORTS



With wins in nine of past 10,
Cubs close in on first place
in NL Central, Page 31

In draft, two schools of thought

Teams lured by potential of prep stars like Howard

BY MARC NARDUCCI
The Philadelphia Inquirer

PHILADELPHIA — High school players have been selected in the first round of the NBA Draft every year since 1995.

Not only will that streak stay intact, but in addition, this year's class is expected to set a record for players going from the high school prom directly to the NBA.

There were a record four high school first-rounders last year and in 2001.

The 2001 draft produced four high school picks among the first eight, including the top two selections, Kwame Brown of Washington and Tyson Chandler, taken by the Los Angeles Clippers and dealt on draft day to the Chicago Bulls.

Last year, LeBron James exceeded all the hype he received as the NBA's first choice. Travis Outlaw, Ndudi Ebi and Kendrick Perkins also were first-round high school picks last season, but didn't conjure up comparisons to LeBron James or even Detroit guard Mike James.

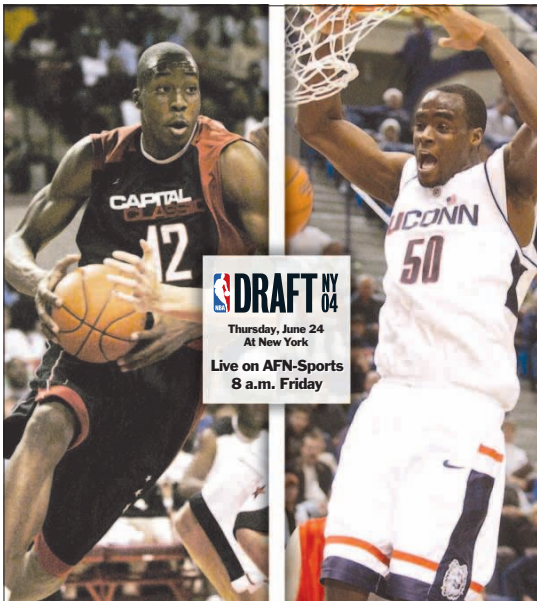
That's why NBA teams will be gambling when they select high school players. And make no mistake, the names of high school players will be called frequently in Thursday's draft, to be held in New York.

This year, there could be at least six high school first-rounders and maybe more," said Marty Blake, the NBA's director of scouting services, who has been evaluating players for more than six decades.

Despite the mass exodus from high school, many of the players in the Class of 2004 aren't expected to be immediately ready for the NBA.

"It's a pretty good high school group, especially when looking at potential upside, but with high school players you just never know," said Tony DiLeo, the 76ers' assistant general manager and senior vice president. "There is nobody like LeBron who will step in and be a major impact."

There isn't a player in the high school class who doesn't carry some form of basketball wart.



Atlanta prep star Dwight Howard, left, and UConn's Emeka Okafor are the expected top picks in the NBA Draft.

The acknowledged No. 1 player is Dwight Howard, an athletic forward from Atlanta. Howard lost two inches recently, but not much in stature.

Two weeks ago in Chicago, during the NBA pre-draft camp, he was measured at 6-foot-9 in his bare feet after being listed at 6-11 by most publications. He has the potential to be a perennial NBA all-star.

This spring, during the week of practice for the McDonald's all-American game in Oklahoma City, Howard seemed to struggle with his stamina at times and with developing any post moves.

Since school ended on May 28, he has been awakening at 4 a.m. for workouts.

"I know in the NBA I have to

get my body used to getting up early, going to practice, so I wanted to get used to it now," Howard said at the Chicago camp.

The other likely high school first-rounders are Shaun Livingston, a 6-6½ point guard from Peoria, Ill.; J.R. Smith, a 6-5½ shooting guard from Newark, N.J.; Josh Smith, a 6-7 small forward from Powder Springs, Ga., who played for the renowned Oak Hill Academy in Virginia; Al Jefferson, a 6-8 power forward from Prentiss, Miss.; Robert Swift, a 7-foot center from Bakersfield, Calif.; and Sebastian Telfair, the celebrated 5-11 point guard from Brooklyn, N.Y.

All seven could be among the top 20 picks.

SEE DRAFT ON PAGE 26

College grad Okafor could contribute immediately

BY MARC NARDUCCI
The Philadelphia Inquirer

CHICAGO — Emeka Okafor is tired of the questions, but they doesn't mean they are about to cease.

Since helping the University of Connecticut to the NCAA basketball title and being named the outstanding player in the Final Four, Okafor has been poked, prodded and polled about his creaky back.

The back caused him to miss three games and play several others in serious discomfort last season. Now he says the biggest pain comes in the form of the persistent questions about it.

"I should put out a questions sheet: 'The back is doing OK,'" Okafor said after the NBA's pre-draft camp this month. "I've been working out for a while, and there is no pain."

Okafor is projected to be the top pick in the draft, but while he says his physical condition isn't a concern, his back has raised a red flag for NBA teams.

"For a player like that, who has had problems, it is definitely a concern," one Eastern Conference executive said. "I think you have to look at his situation very closely."

If healthy, Okafor would seem to be the class of the college crop, and he is likely to be taken by the Orlando Magic with the No. 1 pick.

Measured by the NBA at 6 feet, 8½ inches, he could become one of the league's elite power forwards. But will he be able to flourish on offense in the pros? Like his back, that's not exactly a favorite topic of conversation for him. "I averaged 21 [points] and 10 [rebounds], and I don't know what more I could have done," Okafor said of his performance in UConn's Final Four victories over Duke and Georgia Tech. "Maybe average 30 points per game?"

For his junior season as a whole, he averaged 17.6 points and 11.5 rebounds. He finished his three-year college career with 441 blocked shots — the seventh-highest total in NCAA history.

SEE OKAFOR ON PAGE 26

NBA DRAFT ORDER

1. Orlando
2. Charlotte (from L.A. Clippers)
3. Chicago
4. L.A. Clippers (from Charlotte)
5. Washington
6. Atlanta
7. Phoenix
8. Toronto
9. Philadelphia
10. Cleveland
11. Golden State
12. Seattle
13. Portland
14. Utah
15. Boston
16. Trail Blazers (from New York)
17. Atlanta (from Milwaukee)
18. Denver (from Detroit)
19. New Orleans
20. Miami
21. Denver
22. New Jersey
23. Portland (from Memphis)
24. Boston (from Dallas)
25. Boston (from Detroit)
26. Sacramento
27. L.A. Lakers
28. San Antonio
29. Indiana

Note: Minnesota's first-round pick has been forfeited

Misawa flipping switch on USFJ-AFL season Page 29

